THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SUNDAY • APRIL 21, 2024 • ₹12.00 • PAGES 30 • LATE CITY EDITION

KEJRIWAL DOESN'T NEED INSULIN IN JAIL, SAY OFFICIALS

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal stopped taking insulin months before his arrest and is on a basic anti-diabetes oral medicine, officials said on Saturday, citing a report by the Tihar jail administration to Lt Governor VK Saxena. In response, AAP leader Atishi said the report has "exposed" the BJP's "conspiracy". "At the behest of BJP, a conspiracy is underway to kill Kejriwal in jail. He has been taking insulin for 12 years, what is the problem for the Tihar administration to give insulin to him?," she said

Be a part of history in the making
as we strive to set a new
World Record
in Cooking Briyani.
24/4/2024
9.00 to 11.00 A.M. at
Saveetha Thandalam campus
Contact - 89399 77043
All are welcome!
Anyone with cooking skills, regardless of age, is invited to participate.

ADMISSION OPEN 2024

ONLY UNIVERSITY WITH 9 NIRF 2023 RANKS

SIMATS

Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences - Chennai

+91-44-26801580-87 | +91- 44-26801050 | +91-8939994248
admission@saveetha.com

SIMATS excels in providing quality education and research opportunities in the field of Medical and Technical Sciences. With state-of-the-art facilities and experienced faculty, SIMATS fosters innovation and prepares students for real-world challenges.

The Research Cell at SIMATS stands as a premier Research Centre, housing cutting edge instruments like
South Asia's first Nano CT system.
India's first 0.5nm ultra high-resolution Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope.
Tamil Nadu's first White Light Laser Confocal Microscope with live cell incubation setup and many more.

Our facility utilised by Global clientele
including Texas A&M University, USA, Edelweiss Dentistry, Austria, University Hospital Basel, Switzerland, Jazan University, King Saud University, Majmaah University from Saudi Arabia,University Sains Malaysia. Many other prestigious universities across India such as IITs, AIIMS, Delhi, Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences.

Our services are also utilized by R & D sectors of giant corporate companies such as
ITC India, GE Electronics, Reynolds from Newells, USA and many more.

Research Cell at SIMATS is an all-in-one platform and it is an ultimate destination for all research needs.

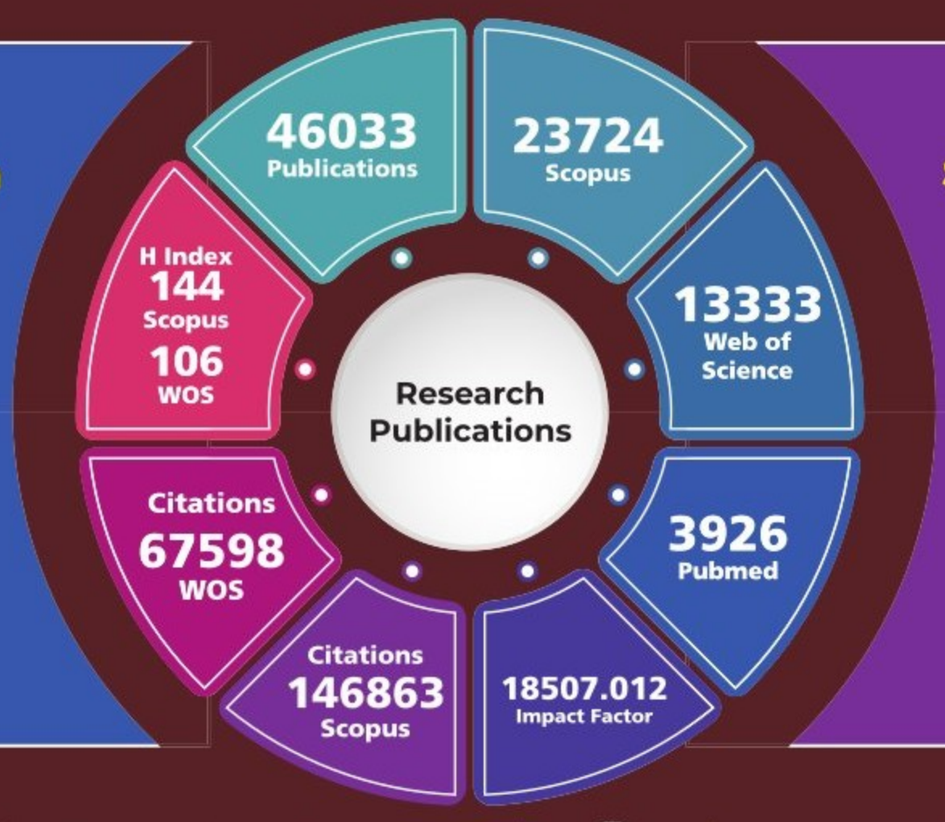
INDIA RANKING 2023 nirf (By MHRD, Govt. of India) GOVT OF INDIA

1	11	13	18	27	36	64	71	51-100
Dental	Law	University	Medical	Overall	Research	Engineering	Management	Innovation

Architecture and Design Arts and Sciences @ Saveetha

B.ARCH and B.DES programs in Fashion Design, Animation and Graphics, Visual Communication, along with BBA and MCA, B.Com (with ACCA, UK), and BSc programs are offered. Bharatham and Music (Part -Time). Architecture college is an approved NATA exam center.

Offer Dual Degree Programs featuring one year of international exposure, including one semester abroad. International architectural tours, student / faculty exchange initiatives, and post-doctoral opportunities.



New Launch, 2024
Saveetha School of Hospitality & Tourism

"Well begun is half done"

The Saveetha School of Hospitality and Tourism boasts Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with UCO in France, Ulster University in the UK, and UMT, UCSI in Malaysia.

The Saveetha School of Hospitality and Tourism offering a one-year international internship and placement opportunities, the school also facilitates student exchange programs and faculty exchange initiatives.

24 WORLD RANK QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS by subject DENTISTRY
nirf 13th RANK (By MHRD, Govt. of India) Among All IITs, IIMs, Central, State, Private & Deemed Universities in India
NAAC NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION COUNCIL A++
UGC Category 1 University
Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2023 SDG 12 : Responsible consumption and Production 44
Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2023 SDG7: Affordable & clean energy 18
NBA NATIONAL BOARD OF ACCREDITATION Tier 1 accreditation

Medicine | Dentistry | Engineering | Law | Management | Nursing | Physiotherapy | Occupational Therapy | Pharmacy
Physical Education | Architecture & Design | Allied Health Sciences | Liberal Arts & Sciences | Hospitality & Tourism

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank — इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

J P NAGAR BRANCH
No.10, 2nd Cross, Nrupathunga Nagar, 7th Phase, JP Nagar, Bangalore-560078.

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sec. 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002

Whereas at the request of you, (below mentioned borrowers/guarantors) **Indian Bank, JP Nagar Branch** has granted credit facilities from time to time by way of financial assistance against various assets creating security interest in favour of the Bank. The particulars of properties mortgaged by you by way of deposit of title deeds creating security interest in favour of the bank are mentioned here under. As you have failed to discharge the debt due to the Bank, the below mentioned loan accounts have been classified as Non performing Assets as per the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India. As the demand notices sent to you by Registered Post calling upon you to discharge the debt due to Bank were returned, unserved, we are issuing this notice through paper publication.

Name of the Borrower:1.)M/s Mahadev Traders (Borrower) Prop. Chena Ram Prajapat #91, 3rd Cross Surabhi Nagar, Jambusavari Dinne J P Nagar 8th Phase Bangalore 560076.**2) Mr. Chena Ram Prajapat S/o Mr.Mangilal Prajapat (Borrower/ Prop./Mortgagor),**No.73/176,Kothanur, 4th Cross Surabhi Nagar, Jambusavari Dinne, J P Nagar, 8th Phase,Bangalore 560076**. 3)Mrs.Lakshmi W/o Mr. Chena Ram Prajapat (Borrower),**No.73/176 Kothanur, 4th Cross, Surabhi Nagar, Jambusavari Dinne,J P Nagar,8th Phase, Bangalore 560076. **Date of NPA on 05.04.2024**

S No	Nature of Facility	Limit
1	6275629271/OCC-TRADEWELL-MSE-REPO	Rs.98,00,000/-
2	7092667078/MSME-GECLS 1.0_ADDON-REPO	Rs. 9,80,000/-
3	6887266560/MSME-IND GECLS COVID-REPO	Rs.19,60,000/-
4	7092612824/MSME-MIC-FITL- NEW-MCLR	Rs. 8,00,000/-
5	6717322159/HLCRE-PUBLIC NON SAL-REPO	Rs.49,17,839/-
6	6800484385/ IB HOME LOAN PLUS-REPO	Rs.20,00,000/-

Total Outstanding Amount:Rs.1,84,89,647/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty four Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Forty Seven Only) + further Interest and other Charges

Mortgaged Assets: 1) Site No. 42, Western Portion Khatha No.43, Anand Reddy Compound, Sri Venkateshwara Layout, J P Nagar, 8th Phase, Kothonur Village Uttrahalli Hobli, Bangalore 560078 measuring East to West: 20ft and North to South: 30ft, In all measuring 600 sq.ft.presently within the limits of BBMP and bounded as- East by:Eastern portion of same site no. 42,West by: Site No. 43,North by:Site No.41, South by: Road

2)Site No. 41/A, Eastern Portion Khatha No.43 B,Khatha S.No.851 Anand Reddy Compound, Sri Venkateshwara Layout, J P Nagar, 8th Phase ,Kothonur Village Uttrahalli Hobli, Bangalore 560078 measuring East to West: 20ft and North to South: 30ft, In all measuring 600 sq.ft.presently within the limits of BBMP and bounded as- East by:Site No.42/A,West by: Remaining portion in same land,North by: Vidyashree's property,South by : Road

3)Property bearing House list No. 14, Northern Portion, Property no. 48, Khatta No. 858, 6th Cross Road, Surbhi Nagar, Jambu Savari Dinne, Opp. To BWSSB Water tank, Kothonur Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru 560076 measuring East to West: 30ft and North to South: 30ft, In all measuring 900 sq.ft.presently within the limits of BBMP and bounded as-East by:Property No.15 of K P Jayara,West by: Property bearing No.13,North by: Road,South by:Private Prop/ Remaining Southern portion of Property No.14

If you fail to repay the above mentioned amount due by you with future interest and incidental expenses, costs as stated above in terms of this notice under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, within 60 days from the date of this notice, the Bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of SARFAESI Act and other applicable provisions of the said Act. This notice is without prejudice to the Bank's right to initiate such other actions or legal proceedings, as it deem necessary under any other Provisions of Law.

Date: 08/04/2024 — **Authorised Officer**
Place: Bangalore — **Indian Bank**

All the news. In just a click.
Log to www.newindianexpress.com
THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
/thenewindianxpress
@newindianxpress
+The New Indian Express
Google Play | App Store

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, BANGALORE
4th Floor, Telephone House Building Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru.

O.A. No. 391 of 2021

Between:
UCO Bank,
Bellandur Branch, Bangalore .... **Applicant**

AND

Mr. Manjappa H L and others .... **Defendants**

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

Defendant No.1: M/s. ABS Builders and Developers, A parnership firm Having its office at No.39/1, Charvi, Mount Joy Road, Near Bull Temple, Hanumantha Nagar, Bengaluru-560 019, Represented by its partner Sri Mallikarjun.

Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an Application U/S 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against of you for recovery **Rs.42,55,819/- (Rupees Forty Two Lakh Fifty Five Thousand Eight Hundred and Nineteen Only)** together with current and future interest and for other relief. The above mentioned defendants are required to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an Advocate in support of their defence to show cause on **16/08/2024 at 10.30 a.m.** (forenoon) as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence. Take notice of interim relief sought.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this, the **18th day of April 2024.**

Sd/- Registrar, Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Bangalore.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

SANJAYNAGAR (DP2699)
Bengaluru
email ID : cb2699@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Physical possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Sanjay Nagar Branch Bangalore of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" without any recourse on **07.05.2024** for recovery of **Rs 40,50,267.11** (Rupees Forty lakhs fifty thousand two hundred and sixty seven and pasise eleven only) as on 19.04.2024 plus further interest and cost from 19.04.2024 plus OPE due to the Sanjay Nagar Branch of Canara Bank from Borrowers **1. Shivanna K.S., 2. Anusuya S.,**

The reserve price of the property is mentioned here below and the earnest money deposit (EMD) is 10% of Reserve Price of the property.

Reserve Price (Lakh Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit (Lakh Rupees)
Rs.168.93 Lakhs	Rs.16.89 Lakhs

The Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before **06.05.2024 upto 4.00 pm.**

Details and full description of the property(ies):
Site No. 13- 1260 sq.feet, situated at No. 9, 2nd Cross, 5th Main, KEB Layout, Sanjaynagar, Bangalore - 560 094, East by : 30 feet Road, West by : Site No. 21, North by : Site No. 8, South by : Site No. 10.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may contact **Branch in Charge Mr. Kannan K.**, Sanjay Nagar Branch, Bangalore, Canara Bank, Ph. No. 9483502699, E mail Id : cb2699 @canarabank.com during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bangalore — Sd/- Authorised Officer
Date: 19.04.2024 — Canara Bank

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, BANGALORE
4th Floor, Telephone House Building Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru-560001

O.A. No. 159/2019

Between:
UCO Bank,
Jayanagar Branch .... **Applicant**

AND

Parthasarathy R and others .... **Defendants**

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT 1993 (51 OF 1993) TO THE DEFENDANT THROUGH PAPER PUBLICATION

To: 1. Parthasarathy R, S/o. Sri Ramegowda, R/o: No.54, 2nd Cross, Sampangiramnagar Layout, Siddanahalli Village, Bengaluru-560073. **Office Address: Sri Parthasathy R, S/o. Sri Ramegowda,** Prop: Electrical Contractor, No.45, 6th Main Road, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru-560072.

2. Smt. Vinutha S.A. W/o. Sri Parthasarathy R, R/o: No.54, 2nd Cross, Sampangiramnagar Layout, Siddanahalli Village, Bengaluru-560073.

Whereas, the applicant has instituted an Application under section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against you for recovery of sum of **Rs.77,00,000/- (Rupees Seventy Seven Lakhs Only)** and to claim future interest and other reliefs. You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of the summons on or before **11.06.2024 at 10.30 a.m.** either in person or by a pleader/Advocate duly instructed as to why reliefs payed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **06th day of March 2024.**

By the Order of the Tribunal
Signaure of the Officer, Authorized to issue Summons

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client states that the following original document in respect of Schedule Property have been misplaced: Regd., Sale Deed dated 26.02.2001, Document No. 1194/2001-2002, Book No.1, Volume No. 4880, at pages 15-21, on 08.05.2001, in the office of the Sub-Registrar Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru in respect of Residential House (Villa No. 27), consisting of Ground Floor and First Floor built on property bearing Katha No. 312/96/27 (old No. 96/27), in the records of Ramagondanahlli Group Panchayat and Situated at Ramagondanahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, measuring built up area 2520 Sq., Ft., have been misplaced/lost and is not traceable immediately. We hereby call upon the public if anyone found the above said document, kindly hand over to undersigned immediately and they may be suitable awarded, and also we further bring into the notice of the general public that in case anyone dealing with the Schedule Property on the basis of the above said original document in respect of the Schedule Property, same will be an offence and they are liable to punish under the Criminal Act. Therefore, we are call upon the general public not to deal with the Schedule Property on the basis of above said original documents which is standing in the name of Smt. Anindita Das Venkataraman W/o. Sri. S. Venkataraman. The Certified copy of the Sale Deed bearing No. 1194/2001-2002, dated 26.02.2001 executed by Smt. R. Sharada Devi W/o. Sri. T. K. Shankar, rep. by her GPA Holder Sri. B. C. Prasad, in favour of Smt. Rabia Razak W/o. Sri. S. Razack, will be obtained from the Sub Registrar office and same shall be treated as original title deed of Smt. Anindita Das Venkataraman W/o. Sri. S. Venkataraman, with respect to the Schedule Property.

"SCHEDULE PROPERTY"

All the piece and parcel of the Residential House (Villa No. 27), consisting of Ground Floor and First Floor built on property bearing Katha No. 312/96/27 (old No. 96/27), in the records of Ramagondanahlli Group Panchayat and Situated at Ramagondanahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, measuring built up area 2520 Sq., Ft., and bounded as follows

East by : Property No. 311/96/26
West by : Property No. 313/96/28
North by : Road and
South by : Road

A. P. Law Associates
No. 1642/28, 3rd Main Road,
Ramamohanpuram Near Srirampura Metro Station,
(Behind Devaiah Park) Bengaluru-560021
Mob:- 7975989897/9844378777

Place: Bengaluru
Dated: 19/04/2024

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

Avathi Banch
Bangalore Rural I
Corrigendum of Proclamation Of Sale - Cum E-Auction Sale Notice

To, **Mr. Pillappa .V** S/o. Venkatashamappa, R/at : Harohalli Village, Harohalli Post, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural Dist-562110.

The under mentioned properties will be sold by 'online e-Auction' through website https://www.ccsl.co.in on 02.03.2024 for recovery of an amount of **Rs. 48,40,550/-** (Rupees Fourty Eight Lakhs Fourty Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Only) including costs and interest as on 03.03.2024 with future interest till realisation. The future interest is chargeable at the same rate till realization of debt as per Recovery Certificate in **R.C. No. : 227/2023 in O.A No. : 1162/2021**

Date and Time of e-Auction	**17.05.2024, 11.00 A.M. to 12.30 P.M.**
Reserve Price	Rs. 75,00,000/- (Rupees Seventy Five Lakhs)
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 7,50,000/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Fifty Thousand)
Last date for Bid Submission	14.05.2024 till 3.00 p.m.
Bid Increment	Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakhs)

Description of the Schedule Property : All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Sy. No. 108/12 (old), 108/12P (New), Measuring 1 Acre 20 Guntas, situated at Harohalli Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli. bounded on : East by : Land of Kenchappa, West by : Land of H.B. Manjunatha, North by : Own Property, South by : Land of Rajanna.

For Terms and conditions of sale visit website: https://www.ccsl co.in of M/s. CanBank Computer Services Limited, Bangalore, For furthere details Contact Pratap Kanjilal, Mobile : 9832952602/ 9480691777, email id : ccsleauction@gmail.com/ Mr. Pratap Kanjilal, 9483540664, Br No. 080-27626650 (L), E-mail ID : ccsleauction@gmail.com, eauction@ccsl.co.in. Given under my hand and seal on this 02nd day of April 2024.

Recovery Officer - I
DRT-2 : Bengaluru

KARNATAKA GRAMIN BANK

(A scheduled Bank Established by Government of India : Sponsored by Canara Bank)
Regional Office, Bengaluru, R & L Section
Ph: 080-23186095, 23217079 : Email: roblr.rlw@kgbk.in
No.19-19/1, 2nd Floor, South End Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004.

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property) [Rule 8(1)]

Whereas, The undersigned being the authorised officer of the **Karnataka Gramin Bank Kalkunte Branch** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated **25.05.2023,** calling upon the borrowers, Late **Sri. Bathappa S/o Muniyappa and Sri. Siddesh Kumar S/o Bathappa** R/at Thirumalashettyhalli, Hosakote taluk, Bengaluru Urban Dist – 560067 and Guarantor **Sri. Nanjappa s/o Aneppa,** R/ at Thirumalashettyhalli, Hosakote Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District-560067 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 28,28,146/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh Twenty Eight Thousand One hundred and Forty Six only)** as on **20.05.2023** and interest from 21.05.2023 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub Section 4 of Section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this **20.04.2024.**

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub Section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of, time available to redeem the secured Assets.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Karnataka Gramin Bank, Kalkunte Branch** for an amount **Rs.23,77,655/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty Five only) as on 20.03.2024 and interest from 21.03.2024.**

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of the residential house property having Khatha No.462/330, "Pushkara Carton Box Corrugaters" Behind Govt. Primary school, Property Measuring East-West: 41 Ft, North-South: 65 Ft, Totally measuring 2665 Sq Ft, situated at Thirumalashettyhalli Village, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hosakote taluk, Bengaluru Urban District. This Property is in the name of **Sri. Bathappa S/o G Muniyappa bounded by : East by :** Road, **West by**: Government School, **North by :**Private Property, **South by :** Government Canal.

Date: 20.04.2024 — **Sd/- Authorised Officer, Karnataka Gramin Bank**
Place: Bangalore — **R O, Bangalore**

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank | **Branch Office-** ICICI Bank Ltd. 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanhalli Hosur Main Road Bangalore- 560068

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Jwala Kumar Tiwari/ Deepshikha Sharma/ LBBNG00006397834/ TBBNG00006388222	(As described in the Loan document/ property document covering All That Piece and Parcel of The Immovable Property Bearing Eastern Portion of Khatha No.711/82/44, BBMP Khatha Form-B Property Register SL. No. 957, New Bbmp Khatha No. 312/711/44, Situated At: Horamavu Agara Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Now Comes Under The Jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Limits, Bangalore, Measuring East to West 17 Feet and North to South 75 Feet, In All Measuring 1275 Sq, Ft., and Bounded on The: North: House Belongs to Eshwarappa, South: Road, East: House Belongs to Beerappa, West: Remaining Portion of Same Property Belonging to The Vendor Sri. N. Dhanraj/ Physical Possession on 18.04.2024	23.08.2023 Rs. 56,82,169/-	Bangalore

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : April 20, 2024 — **Authorized Officer**
Place : Bangalore — **ICICI Bank Limited**

DEUTSCHE BANK AG

 # 26- 27, Raheja Towers, M G Road, Bangalore - 560001

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS 28th May 2024 up to 4:00 pm

Sale of immovable property mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 (No.54 of 2002)

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of DEUTSCHE BANK AG had taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Sec 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 in the following loan accounts with our Branch with a right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS AND AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website: **https://www.bankeauctions.com**

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES

Lot No.	Name of the Branch & Account	Property/ies Description	Demand Notice Date / Outstanding Amount (Secured debt)	Authorized Officer's Details	EMD SUBMISSION ACCOUNT DETAILS	Reserve Price / EMD / Minimum Bid Enhance Amount	Date/ Time of E - Auction
1.	Deutsche Bank AG , # 26- 27, Raheja Towers, M G Road, Bangalore - 560001 **Mr. Rajiv Kumar Sharma** and Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma	All the piece and parcel of Residential Apartment bearing Flat # B-503, Nitesh Central Park SY-148/2, Kattigena Halli, Jala Hobli, Bangalore – 560063, having a super built-up area of 1731 Sq. Ft (UDS - 595 Sq. Ft.) 3 BHK in 5th Floor of Block 'B'	**14th June 2021** **Rs. 64,07,687.63** as on **01-June-2021** + interest + other charges	**Mr. Dhaneshwar Koganur** Mobile No. **9886227701** Email Id **dhaneshwar.koganur@db.com**	**A/c No.** 078494027010068 **A/c Name–Deutsche** Bank AG EMD, **Name of the Beneficiary** -Deutsche Bank AG **IFSC-** DEUT0784PBC	**Rs.86,90,000.00** **Rs.8,69,000.00** (10% of the Reserve Price) **1,00,000.00** (Bid Inc. Amount)	**30-May-2024, 12:00 PM to 1.00 PM**

The e-Auction is being held on **"AS IS WHERE IS"** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".**

1. To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on any property. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ ies put on auction and claims/ rights/ dues/ effecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the bank. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorised Officer/ Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/ rights/ dues.

2. It shall be the responsibility of the bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the asset and specification before submitting the bid. The inspection of property/ies put on auction will be permitted to interested bidders on **04th May 2024 between 11 am to 3 pm.**

3. The interested bidders shall submit their EMD through Web Portal: https://www.bankeauctions.com (the user ID & Password can be obtained free of cost by registering name with https://www.bankeauctions.com) through Login ID & Password. The EMD shall be payable through NEFT in the account mentioned above.

After Registration (One Time) by the bidder in the Web Portal, the intending bidder/ purchaser is required to get the copies of the following documents uploaded in the Web Portal before the Last Date & Time of submission of the Bid Documents viz. i) Copy of the NEFT/RTGS Challan or Demand Draft; ii) Copy of PAN Card; iii) Proof of Identification/ Address Proof (KYC) viz. self-attested copy of Voter ID Card/ Driving License/ Passport etc.; without which the Bid is liable to be rejected. UPLOADING SCANNED COPY OF ANNEXURE-II & III (can be downloaded from the Web Portal: https//www.bankeauctions.com) AFTER DULY FILLED UP & SIGNING IS ALSO REQUIRED. The interested bidders who require assistance in creating Login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting Bid Documents, Training/ Demonstration on Online Inter-se Bidding etc., may contact M/s. C1 India Pvt Ltd, Udyog Vihar, Phase 2, Gulf Petrochem building, Building No. 301, Gurgaon, Haryana. Pin: 122015, E-mail ID : support@bankeauctions.com, Support Helpline Numbers : 124-4302020/21/22/23, 7291981124 / 1125 / 1126, Sales Enquiries : sales@bankeauctions.com, 7291981129 and for any property related query may contact Authorised Officer: Mr. Dhaneshwar Koganur; Mobile No :9886227701 e-mail ID: dhaneshwar.koganur@db.com during the working hours from Monday to Saturday.

4. The interested bidder has to submit their Bid Documents (not below the Reserve Price) and required documents (mentioned in Point No. 3) on/ before **28th May 2024 upto 4.00 pm** and after going through the Registering Process (One time) and generating User ID & Password of their own, shall be eligible for participating the e-Auction Process, subject to due verification (of the documents) and/ or approval of the Authorised Officer. EMD also can be deposited in the bank by way demand draft favoring "Deutsche Bank AG EMD" the same will be returned to unsuccessful bidder.

5. During the Online Inter-se Bidding, Bidder can improve their Bid Amount as per the 'Bid Enhancement Amount' (mentioned above) or its multiple and in case bid is placed during the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the e-Auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes (each time till the closure of e-Auction process), otherwise, it'll automatically get closed. The bidder who submits the highest bid amount (not below the Reserve Price) on the closure of the e-Auction Process shall be declared as a Successful Bidder by the Authorised Officer/ Secured Creditor, after required verification

6. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of the successful bidder shall be retained towards part sale consideration and the EMD of unsuccessful bidders shall be refunded. The Earnest Money Deposit shall not bear any interest. The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the sale price, adjusting the EMD already paid, within 24 hours of the acceptance of bid price by the Authorised Officer and the balance 75% of the sale price on or before 15th day of sale or within such extended period as agreed upon in writing by and solely at the discretion of the Authorised Officer. In case of default in payment by the successful bidder, the amount already deposited by the offer shall be liable to be forfeited and property shall be put to re-auction and the defaulting borrower shall have no claim/ right in respect of property/ amount.

7. The prospective qualified bidders may avail online training on e-Auction from M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd. prior to the date of e-Auction. Neither the Authorised Officer/ Bank nor M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd. shall be liable for any Internet Network problem and the interested bidders to ensure that they are technically well equipped for participating in the e-Auction event.

8. The purchaser shall bear the applicable stamp duties/ additional stamp duty/ transfer charges, fee etc. and also all the statutory/ non-statutory dues, taxes, rates, assessment/electricity charges, fees etc. owing to anybody.

9. The Authorised Officer is not bound to accept the highest offer and the Authorised Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any or all offer(s) or adjourn/ postpone/ cancel the e-Auction without assigning any reason thereof.

10. The bidders are advised to go through the detailed Terms & Conditions of e-Auction available on the Web Portal of M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd., https://www.bankeauctions.com before submitting their bids and taking part in the e-Auction

11. The publication is subject to the force Majeure clause.

12. Please treat this has notice under Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules,2002.

Special Instructions

13. Bidding in the last moment should be avoided in the bidders own interest as neither the DEUTSCHE BANK AG nor Service provider will be responsible for any lapse/failure (Internet failure/power failure etc.) in order to ward-off such contingent situations bidders are requested to make all necessary arrangements / alternatives such as power supply back-up etc, so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully.

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

The borrower/ guarantors are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of e-Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/ sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date: 21.04.2024 **Place:** Bangalore — **Dhaneshwar Koganur - Authorised Officer, DEUTSCHE BANK AG**

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
सिंडिकेट Syndicate
BENGALURU

E-AUCTION NOTICE

SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES THROUGH E-AUCTION (ONLINE AUCTION) UNDER RULES 8(6) & (9) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

Notice is hereby given to the effect that the immovable properties described herein, taken possession under the provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, will be sold by inviting tenders on the following terms & conditions. E auction arranged by the service provider **M/s. Antares Systems Ltd.** through the website **https://www.bankeauctionwizard.com**

Sl. No.	1)Name of the Borrower / Guarantor(s) 2)Name of the Branch and Secured Creditor	1) Secured Debt outstanding 2) Reserve Price 3) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Amount	1) Last date of deposit of EMD 2) Last date of KYC documents 3) EMD A/c no. 4) IFSC code 5) Bid Factor	1. Date of Auction 2. Time of Auction 3. Date & Time of Inspection
1	**1) BORROWER (S) : 1. M/S. Tejeshwini Electricals, Licence Electrical Contractor,** No 23/1, Nagappa Street, Palace Guttahalli, Bangalore - 560003 **2. Sri M. K. Chinnaswamy Naidu, 3. Sri M Krishna, Both are at :** No 22, Nagappa Street Palace Guttahalli, Bangalore – 560003. **2) Canara Bank - Cunningham Road Branch Ph No. 080-22371425, Mob No. 8762720431**	**1) Rs.2,41,45,832.32** plus further interest & charges **2) Mentioned each property below.**	1) 06.05.2024 upto 5.00 pm 2) 07.05.2024 upto 5.00 pm 3) 209272434 4) CNRB0000431 5) Rs. 50,000/-	1. 08.05.2024 2. 11.00 am to 12.00 Noon 3. 04.05.2024 10.00 am to 2.00 pm

Description of the immovable/ movable assets: Property bearing Municipal No 21/1, PID- No - 41-53-21/1 situated at Byatarayanapura Layout, Bangalore, Ward No.41 of Gali Anjaneya Temple Range , Bangalore 560026 ,Also called (Postal Address) Site No 21/1,4th Main ,5Th Cross,Ganapathinagar ,Byatarayanapura Extension,Banaglore -560026 (Near Athithy Bar & Restaurant) measuring East to West : 14 Feet and North to South : 45 Feet in all measuring 630 Sq.Ft together with building constructed thereon belonging to Sri.M K.Chinnaswamy Naidu, Bangalore and bounded by : **East by –** Site No 20 and 23, **West by –** Muniyappa's Land presently Drainage, **North by –** Remaining portion of Same Site and **South by –** 20 Feet Road.

A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs. 41,30,000.00 B) EMD - Rs 4,13,000.00

For all details contact at Regional Office, MG Road, Bangalore. Contact Numbers - 1) 90109 49899, 2) 9483520887, 3) 8762720431, 4) 9483500404

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please logon to our website **www.canarabank.com** under "E-Auction" or contact the branch.

Place: Bangalore, — **Authorized Officer,**
Date : 21.04.2024 — **Canara Bank**

Canara Bank
A Government of India Undertaking

ARM Branch - II, 2nd Floor, Circle Office, Spencer Towers, No. 86, MG Road, Bengaluru - 560001
Ph No.: 080-25310099, 080-25310181, E-mail: cb6298@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

(Under Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged /charged to the **Secured Creditor,** the possession of which has been taken by the **Canara Bank, ARM Branch II Bangalore-1** will be sold **"As is where is", "As is what is", and " Whatever there is"** basis for recovery of outstanding dues from below mentioned Borrowers. The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit is mentioned below.

Name of Borrowers and Guarantors	Total Liabilities as per Sale Notice	Description of Immovable Assets	Auction Date & Time	Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit [EMD] Date & Time	1) Incremental Value at Bid 2) A/c No. & IFSC
1. M/s Archangle Architectural Products Pvt Ltd, No. 181, 3rd Floor, Kbar Road, Austin Town Road, Bengaluru **2. Sri B S Gnanaprakash,** No.91, 1st Stage, 4th Cross, Kumaraswamy Layout, Near Dayanandasagar Collage Bengaluru-560078 **3. H S Geetha,** W/o B S Gnana Prakash No.91, 1st Stage, 4th Cross,Kumaraswamy Layout, Near Dayanandasagar Collage, Bengaluru-560078	**Rs. 38184764.00** (Rupees Three Crore Eighty One Lakhs Eighty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Four Only)as on 30.09.2023 plus further interest thereon from 01.10.2023 along with expenses, other charges, etc.	Vacant Residential Sites measuring 4000 Sqft bearing site no.61,Khata No. 1653/130/61 situated at Kenchanakuppe Gram Panchayat, Aprroved BMRDA Vide # BMRDA/LAO/143/2005-06 DATED 19/10/2005, 'ABM info City, Sy No. 20/5A & 20/6 Kallugopahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagaram Taluk Bangalore Rural in the Name of Mr. Gnanaprakash B S.	**07/05/2024 from 11.30 A.M. to 12.30 P.M.**	**Reserve Price:** Rs.72.00 Lakhs **EMD:** Rs.7.2 Lakhs **04/05/2024** up to **3.00 PM.**	1) Multiples of Rs.50,000/- 2) A/c No. 209272434 IFSC : CNRB0006298
		Vacant residential sites measuring 2400 sft bearing site no. 455, Khata # 2047/130/455, Kenchanakuppe Gram Panchayat approved by BMRDA vide # BMRDA/LAO/143/2005-06 dated 29/10/2015 'ABM City' Sy No. 20/4, Kallugopahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagaram Taluk, Bangalore Rural in the name of Gnanaprakash B S		**Reserve Price:** Rs.45.60 Lakhs **EMD:** Rs.4.56 Lakhs **04/05/2024** up to **3.00 PM.**	**Encumbrance (s):** Not Known to the Bank

OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

a. Auction / bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website **www.indianbankseauctions.com**. Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.
b. The property can be inspected, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer between **2.30 P.M to 5.00 P.M. on 03.05.2024**
c. The property will be sold for the price which is more than the Reserve Price and the participating bidders may improve their offer further during auction process.
d. EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited by way of DD favouring **Authorised officer, Canara Bank, ARM Branch II, Bangalore** OR through online (RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer) to credit the account number 209272434, Canara Bank, ARM Branch II, Bangalore RTGS/NEFT CODE CNRB0006298 on or before 04.05.2024 - 3.00 PM.
e. After payment of the EMD amount, the intending bidders should submit a copy of the following documents/details on or before 04.05.2024-5.00 PM, to Canara Bank, ARM Branch II Bangalore by hand OR Email.
   i. Demand Draft/Pay order towards EMD amount. If paid through RTGS/NEFT Acknowledgement receipt thereof with UTR No.
   ii. Photocopies of PAN Card, ID Proof and Address proof. However, successful bidder would have to produce these documents in original to the Bank at the time of making payment of balance amount of 25% of bid amount.
   iii. Bid Form.
f. The intending bidders should register their names at portal **www.indianbankseauction.com** and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E- auction from the service provider, **M/S CANBANK COMPUTER SERVICES LTD.** e-mail: eauction@ccsl.co.in Contact Numbers:- 9480691777 & 9832952602.
g. EMD deposited by the unsuccessful bidder shall be refunded to them. The EMD shall not carry any interest.
h. Auction would commence at Reserve Price, as mentioned above. Bidders shall improve their offers in **multiplies of Rs.50,000/-**. The bidder who submits the highest bid (not below the Reserve price) on closure of 'Online' auction shall be declared as successful bidder. Sale shall be confirmed in favour of the successful bidder, subject to confirmation of the same by the secured creditor.
i. The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD already paid), immediately on declaring him/her as the successful bidder and the balance within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. If the successful bidder fails to pay the sale price within the period stated above, the deposit made by him shall be forfeited by the Authorised Officer without any notice and property shall forthwith be put up for sale again.
j. For sale proceeds of **Rs.50.00 Lakhs** (Rupees Fifty lacs) and above, the successful bidder will have to deduct TDS at a rate 1% or as applicable on the sale proceeds and submit the original receipt of TDS certificate to the bank.
k. All charges for Conveyance, Stamp Duty/GST/Registration Charges etc. As applicable shall be borne by the successful bidder only.
l. Authorised Officer reserves the right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and conditions of the E-auction without assigning any reason thereof.
m. In case there are bidders who do not have access to the internet but interested in participating the E-auction, they can approach Canara Bank Circle office, Bengaluru or Canara Bank ARM II Branch, Bengaluru, who as a facilitating centre shall make necessary arrangements.
n. Bidder has to make due diligence and physical verification of property with regard to title, extent, area dues, etc. No claim subsequent to submission of bid shall be entertained by the bank.
o. For further details contact **Ranjan Kumar, Chief Manager, Canara Bank, ARM Branch-2- (080-25310181)** e-mail id – **cb6298@canarabank.com** OR the service provider M/s.Canbank Computer Services Ltd, Bangalore - e- mail: eauction@ccsl.co.in Contact Numbers:- 9480691777 & 9832952602.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION/CAUTION

Bidding in the last minutes/seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Canara Bank nor the Service Provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of the bidder or vendor in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements/alternatives such as back –up, power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully.

Place: Bengaluru — **Sd/-**
Date: 19.04.2024 — **Authorised Officer, Canara Bank**

THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS
BENGALURU • SUNDAY • APRIL 21, 2024 • ₹12.00 • PAGES 30 • LATE CITY EDITION

DD LOGO CHANGE SPARKS CONTROVERSY

The change in colour of national broadcaster Doordarshan's iconic logo ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, shifting from red to what looks like saffron, has triggered a controversy. The announcement came through DD News' official handle. "While our values remain the same, we are now available in a new avatar," the tweet said. Rajya Sabha MP Jawhar Sircar, who served as the CEO of Prasar Bharati, the statutory body overseeing Doordarshan and All India Radio, from 2012 to 2016, criticized the change, expressing concerns about what he called the "saffronisation" of the national broadcaster

For every
₹100 Karnataka contributes
to the Modi Government in taxes,

Karnataka receives
only ₹13 in return

How long should
we tolerate this injustice?

Let's put an end to Modi government's
injustice
towards Kannadigas

My Tax My Right

Let's defeat BJP.

Vote for Congress that protects the
interests of Kannadigas

Published by Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee

ALMANAC TODAY
• **Sunday:** 21.04.2024 • **Year:** Shobhakruta • **Ayana:** Uttharayana • **Ritu:** Vasantha • **Masa:** Chaitra • **Paksha:** Shukla • **Tithi:** Trayodasi 12.28 am • **Nakshatra:** Utthara Phalguni 4.46 pm • Moon in Tula Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 04:30 pm to 06:00pm • **Gulikakala:** 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • **Yamaganda:** 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER — MIN 24°C | MAX 38°C
FORECAST Mostly sunny and hot

Sunrise 06.03 am | Sunset 06.32 pm | Moonrise 04.36 pm | Moonset 04.18 am

THE WATER WARRIOR

"I bathe with three mugs of water; I don't smell," says Odette, who has been saving water for the last 15 years

Odette holding a mug full of bioenzyme which she made out of fruit and vegetable peels and wasted RO water

Even with plenty of water flowing from my taps, I have realised it is crucial to conserve water as it is a shared resource. This realisation has prompted me to not only save water in my own home, but also to create awareness among others

– Odette Katrak

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

WAY before water scarcity hit the headlines, Odette Katrak, an environment and sustainability changemaker and co-founder of Beautiful Bharat, has been taking extreme measures to conserve water... from taking baths with just three mugs of water to watering over 350 plants without fresh water since 2009. Her bathing practice has been a butt of joke among her friends, who tease her about auto-correct changing "Odette" to "Odour".

With her unique ways, she has inspired many, including Anand Raaj -- the man behind Eat Raja, a zero-waste juice bar located at Malleswaram in Bengaluru. He is now keeping up with the motto, "use less, reuse more", in his business.

Raaj said, "On an average if we have 100-150 customers visiting, we require approximately 30 litres of water to thoroughly wash 250 ml glasses. However, the target audience exceeds 500 each day. At Eat Raja, we serve juice in fruit shells which are often consumed. However, when it is discarded, we use them to prepare manure. Moreover, even for cleaning slabs and floors at the shop, only waste RO water is used."

Growing up in a joint family in Chennai amid water scarcity, Odette realised the severity of the crisis from a young age as each member was allotted only a limited quantity of water. But it was not until she stumbled upon a presentation titled "A Letter to 2070" that her conservation efforts took a more urgent and severe turn.

The letter, penned by a father to his son, portrayed a world devoid of water in the most dire and severe terms imaginable. It depicted a dystopian scenario where people were reduced to shaving and had no option but to apply oil to their bodies because of the scarcity of water. The grim portrayal left a profound impact on Odette, compelling her to intensify her efforts to conserve water.

Reflecting on her early experiences in Bellandur after relocating to Bengaluru, she recounted observing women fetching water. Among them was a mother carrying her infant, who also held an empty bucket. "That prompted me to ponder, would we appreciate the value of water if we had to carry and pay for it?"

She said, "Even with plenty of water flowing from my taps, I have realised it is crucial to conserve water as it is a shared resource. This realisation has prompted me to not only save water in my own home, but also to create awareness among others that just because we pay for water tankers it does not justify wastefulness."

She has created a unique framework that she terms "Eco-watternomics" to make it easy to save water using a water-based hierarchy.

To explain, she often poses a question, "Would you bathe with mineral water?" She highlights how we would not use water of higher purity for bathing, yet we frequently use fresh tap water for tasks like washing mops or rinsing dirty dishes, though water of lower purity would suffice just as well.

According to her calculations, the majority of households only need fresh water for 30-40 percent of their needs. The rest of their water requirements can be fulfilled by reusing water even if it is cloudy, soapy, or muddy from secondary hidden sources like water from washing hands, pulses, fruits and vegetables, waste RO water, water from defrosting, and washing machine outlet water. "Water that goes down the drain can always serve another purpose," she advises.

Why wait for a water crisis to begin, she questions. Saving water should not be limited to Bengalureans and only for summer, but it is a year-round habit everyone could adopt, she highlights.

Through her social media handles @odettekatrak and @beautifulbharatorg, she consistently creates content to raise awareness about easy ways to save water. Her upcoming project focuses on creating small clips aimed at educating domestic helps about water conservation.

To create an ideal environment for insects, EY-GDS collaborated with Bhumi and Vibhinna NGOs to create eight insect cafes at Lalbagh Botanical Garden | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Lalbagh inaugurates insect cafes to promote conservation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

TO foster engaging habitats for insects, Ernst and Young - Global Delivery Services (EY-GDS), a multinational professional services collaborated with NGOs - Bhumi and Vibhinna India Foundation - to establish eight insect cafes at Lalbagh Botanical Garden to enhance insect conservation and improve their overall ecosystem.

The set-ups are placed at eight locations within Lalbagh as directed by the horticulture department, to ensure visitors' safety and minimal human intervention. The innovative set-ups were inaugurated by DS Ramesh, director of Department of Horticulture on Friday. "This marks a crucial step towards protecting and nurturing indispensable insect species. Left without their safe habitats to support, reproduce, and thrive, many insects are nearing extinction, and this could significantly endanger the food chain," Ramesh said.

Rumi Mallick Mitra, director of Corporate Responsibility at EY-GDS said, "Eco-friendly cafes have been constructed using upcycled wood, mud, and bamboo, providing secure nesting grounds for a diverse range of insect species. Intensive agricultural practices have posed significant threats to insect populations, especially vital pollinators like bees, and have disrupted the delicate balance of the food chain. Hence, these insect cafes, akin to the cafes people often visit intend to enhance the overall ecosystem."

Intensive agricultural practices have posed significant threats to insect populations, and have disrupted the balance of food chain

Rumi Mallick Mitra, Director of CSR at EY-GDS

The space is constructed with wooden blocks, each containing holes for bees to rest. Additionally, a block is provided for placing cow dung, which bees typically inhabit. The lower section of the structure features loose mud compartments for ants. The entire design is sloped to resemble a hut, to shield the space from rain. The collaboration includes 21 such insect cafes. Apart from the eight inaugurated on Friday, seven others were established at Doddasaggere Botanical Garden in March and six others will be set up in Cubbon Park by June.

Tinder, Yuvaa encourage, educate first-time voters

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

WITH 20 million voters eager to cast their votes for the first time in the Lok Sabha elections, brands are doing their best to encourage the youth to make an informed decision. Tinder, an app for meeting new people launched 'Every single vote counts' awareness campaign across the country in collaboration with Yuvaa– a youth media organization and Mark Your Presence, a non-partisan organization that aims to empower and educate young voters. The company witnessed a three-times increase in the number of individuals who are adding 'voting' in their Tinder Bios.

The platform introduced in-app voting-themed stickers such as 'Voting partner needed', 'First-time voter', and 'I voted' for users to display on their profiles. Until May 15 users will see 'Swipe Cards ' on the app highlighting the process of voting and tips for documentation. Each Swipe Card will direct the relevant Tinder user to the Mark Your Presence website for information on voter registration and how to complete the process.

A survey conducted by Yuvaa of 18-24-year-olds across Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai, and Kolkata in 2024 showed that when it comes to voting and dating preferences, 60% of GenZ respondents strongly prefer dating someone who votes and 1 in 3 of surveyed young adults expressed that they would find a potential match more attractive if they know the person is taking the elections seriously.

Speaking to TNIE, Chaitanya Prabhu, founder, Mark Your Presence said that everyone wants youngsters to contribute to the electoral process, but have very little information on how to navigate through the system. "We don't want to influence their decisions but in the most non-partisan ways we want to make them aware of how the Lok Sabha polls and state elections affect their everyday lives, the role of an MP, MLA and other leaders." The 25-year-old added that he has been receiving a good response and the 'tide is changing' with more individuals from the community wanting to contribute.

Aahana Dhar, Tinder's Communications director in India said, "Over half of Tinder's users are aged between 18 to 25 years old and this collaboration is a great opportunity to encourage younger and newer voters to go to the ballot. We know young daters are passionate about key events that impact their lives and Tinder is giving them a way to express their intent directly apart from raising awareness about voter registration for first-timers."

Over half of Tinder's users are aged between 18 to 25 years old and this collaboration is a great opportunity to encourage younger and newer voters to go to the ballot

Aahana Dhar, Tinder Communication Director

Change your mindset and vote: Girinath to youth

Bengaluru: District Election Officer (DEO) and Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath appealed to students to change their mindset and vote without fail in the Lok Sabha elections. He was speaking after launching a voting awareness programme held on Saturday at Seshadripuram College, Gandhinagar. "To fulfil your aspirations, you should go to the polling stations, cast your votes without fail and choose the best candidate," Girinath said. He also added that India has a huge number of young people, which is why everyone should vote voluntarily. Every vote is important in an election and voting should be everyone's first priority on April 26, he said.

Micro observers given training in city

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

DISTRICT Election Officer and Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath instructed micro observers to work vigilantly in polling stations in the city, ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. Speaking at the training programme conducted for micro observers on Saturday at Puttanna Chetty Town Hall, he pointed out that all micro observers should monitor polling booths assigned to them on the polling day.

"305 critical and vulnerable polling stations will be set up in 28 assembly constituencies, including 24 assembly constituencies in the three Lok Sabha constituencies of the city, one assembly constituency in Chikkaballapur Lok Sabha constituency and three assembly constituencies in Bangalore Rural Lok Sabha constituency. He said 365 micro observers have been deployed for the same," said Girinath.

He also advised proper monitoring to be carried out during the proceedings near polling booths. He suggested a report be given to general voters about the activities that took place in that polling booth after the polling.

He said, apart from deploying micro observers at critical polling stations, video and web casting will also be done.

Makarand Pandurang, General Observer of Bangalore South, said that the role of micro observers will play an important role on the polling day. They should monitor the movements in the polling booths from the mock poll process in the morning till the polling process concludes in the evening.

Students of Vasavi Education Board create voting awareness in Bengaluru on Saturday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Despite ban, use of plastic common in rallies, campaigns, no cases registered

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

DESPITE a ban on the use of single-use plastic, it can still be seen in several political campaigns and rallies. However, not a single case has been filed against political parties, candidates, or the organisers of such events, as the authorities concerned are busy with election duty.

The use of single-use plastic is prohibited under Section 5 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986. The solid waste management rules of Karnataka also ban its use. There are also directives from the Election Commission of India on not using plastic during campaigns and rallies.

Experts say that it is the duty and responsibility of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) to ensure that there is no use of plastic while permitting political events.

A senior BBMP Marshal said, "The rules are being floated in Karnataka, including the state capital Bengaluru. Segregation of waste is happening only in a few places. There is little or no control over plastic waste management in public places. While plastic bottles are being collected and recycled, little attention is being given to flexes and banners."

A senior KSPCB official said, "It is for the BBMP to ensure that the rules are followed. So far, no one has filed a complaint against any political party, candidate, or organiser." A senior BBMP official said that since most of the staffers are on election duty, no action has been taken so far. "We will inquire into it and act when there is a complaint," added the official.

CITY POLICE RECORD 6.47 LAKH CALLS TO NAMMA 112 IN THREE MONTHS

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

FROM January to March, the city police recorded over 6.47 lakh calls made to Namma 112. Of this, slightly over 1.5 lakh calls required actionable signals. In the last three months, on almost every day, more than 6,500 calls were made to Namma 112.

The average time recorded for each response by Hoysala, the first responders, has been reduced to 7-9 minutes from 11-15 minutes. However, some police officials opine that an updated SOS manual should be in place. Improvement is needed in planning and execution after assessing the situation to avoid wasting crucial minutes.

March recorded the highest number of calls, with over 2.3 lakh calls made, followed by February, which reported over 2.09 lakh calls, and January, with over 2.04 lakh calls made. The data showed that the highest actionable signals in response to calls were reported in March, with about 39,546 actionable signals taken.

B Dayananda, City Police Commissioner told TNIE, Of these calls, many are enquiry calls. However, every day we get about 1,000-1,200 calls for which Hoysala has to be deployed. These are called Calls for Service (CFS) for which the response time is 7-8 minutes.

Speaking about the progress done over time for Hoysala, the senior officer highlighted that the Hoysala is now equipped with the installation of dashcams. Although the staff had been upgraded with training skills and armed with weapons to handle any eventualities, a few of the officials associated with Hoysala duty termed it as a "challenging task." The officer-in-charge is usually tasked with the heavy workload and high expectations, he added.

During each 12-hour shift, we encounter some days with more serious cases that require immediate action. While patrolling, we frequently stop at hotspots like pubs, parks, and crowded areas. However, responding to calls from even within a kilometre radius becomes challenging due to heavy traffic congestion within these hotspot areas. Bengaluru has 241 Hoysala with around two to three Hoysala vehicles in each police station's limits.

THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SUNDAY • APRIL 21, 2024 • ₹12.00 • PAGES 30 • LATE CITY EDITION

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianxpress twitter.com/newindianxpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress

PARIS 2024

THREE QUOTAS ASSURED FOR OLYMPICS IN ASIAN QUALIFIERS

Wrestlers Vinesh Phogat, Reetika Hooda and Anshu Malik put up strong shows in the ongoing qualifiers in Bishkek to secure Games tickets

DOMINANT DISPLAY TO SEAL THE DEAL

1 Vinesh put on a clinical show and sealed the quota by reaching the women's 50kg final without conceding a single point in her three bouts

2 This is big shot in the arm for the multiple worlds medallist, who is one of the leading faces protesting against former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh

YOUNG GRAPPLERS TO THE FORE

- Anshu, who was also part of Tokyo Games, and Reetika, the U-23 world champion, followed suit by putting up equally impressive performances to reach the finals
- So far four women (including Antim's 53 kg) quota places have been secured. In men's, no one has managed so far | P17

2

NUMBER OF MEDALS WON AT 2020 TOKYO OLYMPICS IN 2023

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

● PM: WILL FACE ALL CHALLENGES WITH NARI SHAKTI'S HELP ● 'FIRST PHASE VOTING HAS GONE IN FAVOUR OF NDA'

'Cong tainting Kempegowda's vision of B'luru'

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday highlighted the declining security in Karnataka and slammed the Congress government for its shortcomings while wooing voters to vote for BJP and exercise more caution towards Congress.

Addressing party workers during his Vijay Sankalpa Yatra at Palace Grounds here, Modi called Congress "anti-youth, anti-investment, anti-farmer, and anti-entreprenur". "During the Congress rule here, our daughters are attacked; in markets bombs are being exploded; and people who play bhajans are being assaulted," he said. "These are not common incidents. That's why I appeal to people of Bengaluru and Karnataka to be more alert about Congress...which is grooming people with such a mentality, which is dangerous," he said.

Speaking about Bengaluru, Modi said Nadaprabhu Kempegowda had a vision and dream to build Bengaluru, which is being destroyed by Congress. "The tank city built by Kempegowda has been converted into a tanker mafia city by Congress," he said.

"Congress' eyes are on corruption, not on Bengaluru's problems," he added.

He pointed out how the BJP-led Union government helped the metro line to increase from 17 km in 2014 to 70 km and promised to extend it further. "We also gave importance to suburban rail. Boeing has also come up, second in the world in manufacturing," he said.

Modi slammed Congress for being "anti-farmer".

CONTINUED ON: P6

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with BJP candidates Shobha Karandlaje (Bengaluru North), Dr CN Manjunath (Bengaluru Rural) and PC Mohan (Bengaluru Central) and former chief minister BS Yediyurappa at a rally in Bengaluru on Saturday | VINOD KUMAR T

Many biggies have now joined hands to oust me, says Modi

PURAN CHOUDHARY @ Chikkaballapur

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said several big and powerful people in the country and abroad have joined hands to oust him from office, but stressed that with the help of nari shakti (women power) he would overcome all the challenges.

The PM was speaking at a mega rally in Chikkaballapur alongside JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda. This statement comes just days ahead of the state going to LS polls on April 26.

"Today so many women have come here. You go through so many challenges to nurture your family. I have seen all of it in my home. These days, big and powerful people in the country and abroad have united to remove Modi from power. But because of nari shakti and maatru shakti's blessings and suraksha kavach (safety armour), Modi is able to move on by fighting these challenges," he said.

The PM said that in the last 10 years, the government connected 10 crore women to self-help groups (SHGs) and one crore became 'lakhpati didis', who are earning more than Rs one lakh per month. "This is Modi's guarantee that we will take the number to three crore in the coming years," Modi said.

Taking a crack at the Congress and its alliance, Modi said, "The I.N.D.I.A bloc has no leader, no vision and their history is ridden with scams, which is why people are saying ... 'Abki baar...?" and the one lakh-strong crowd responded: "...Modi Sarkar".

He expressed confidence that the first phase of voting had gone in favour of the BJP-led NDA and 'Viksit Bharat', and that he was positive that the second phase of voting, where Karnataka votes, would too.

"For you, I left no stones unturned in working day in and out. Your dream is my resolution. Every second of my life is dedicated to you and the country. I work 24x7 with the vision for 2047," Modi said. P6

> **The I.N.D.I.A bloc has no leader, no vision and their history is ridden with scams, which is why people are saying ... 'Abki baar...**
>
> Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Security breach? KPYC president, worker detained

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

POLICE detained Karnataka Pradesh Youth Congress (KPYC) president Mohammed Haris Nalapad and a youth Congress worker on Saturday evening for staging a "chombu" (a small water container) protest when Prime Minister Narendra Modi was about to leave the Palace Grounds after addressing a BJP rally.

Minutes before the PM's convoy left for Kempegowda International Airport, an escort vehicle passed through the designated route. P6

Priyanka Gandhi: Kerala CM Pinarayi 'compromised'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ T'Puram/Pathanamthitta

GLOVES were off between the ruling CPM alliance and the Congress leadership as senior party leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan traded charges during their Lok Sabha election campaigns.

The spirit of unity in the Opposition's INDIA bloc evaporated as both sides refused to pull their punches for the second successive day. Priyanka alleged that Pinarayi was targeting her brother Rahul Gandhi but was silent on the BJP. She charged that Pinarayi was 'compromised' as he attacks only the Congress and Rahul.

Earlier in the day, Pinarayi had sought to put the Congress on the mat for for being silent on the Citizenship Amendment Act in its manifesto. "A responsible newspaper in the country has brought out a report," Pinarayi said naming *The New Indian Express*. "It said there was mention of CAA in the first draft of the Congress manifesto but later it was dropped. How could the Congress ignore such a crucial thing? Isn't the Congress executing the Sangh Parivar agenda," he asked.

He also raked up the allegedly shady DLF-Robert Vadra connection to question the Gandhi family's probity.

Priyanka shot back, saying Pinarayi's name had come up in various scams, including gold smuggling, but the Centre chose not to take any action against him. "Your CM is compromised. He only attacks Rahul Gandhi and the Congress and never speaks a word against the BJP," she alleged.

The state Congress leadership had recently alleged that there was some understanding between the BJP and the CPM. Rahul, too, had wondered why the BJP government was not taking action against Pinarayi though two chief ministers are in jail. Pinarayi shot back reminding Rahul that his grandmother (Indira Gandhi) had jailed him during Emergency.

Priyanka Gandhi campaigns for Shashi Tharoor in Thiruvananthapuram | VINCENT PULICKAL

POST HORROR

Forgive us, says mom of Hubballi murder accused

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Dharwad

MUMTAZ, mother of Fayaz, the accused in the Hubballi college girl murder case, on Saturday admitted that what her son did was wrong and he should be punished according to the law of the land.

However, she claimed that her son and Neha, the victim, were in love. Addressing reporters here, Mumtaz revealed how the relationship between her son and Neha developed. Neha took Fayaz's phone number when he won the "University Blue" title at a body-building competition and started interacting with him, Mumtaz said.

She said Fayaz informed her about this a few months ago and she advised him to focus on his studies.

Stating that she could understand the pain and sorrow of the parents who lost their children, she said, "I request all, including Neha's parents, to forgive us. I can realise their agony and I am equally concerned," she added. Meanwhile, Neha's mother said that her daughter was not in love with Fayaz. They were just classmates. But Fayaz was after Neha and she had complained about this many times. "We told her not to take it seriously," Neha's mother added. P7

New criminal justice laws a watershed moment: CJI

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

HAILING the enactment of the new criminal justice laws as a watershed moment for the society, the Chief Justice of India, D Y Chandrachud on Saturday called for infrastructure development and increasing the number of forensic experts and investigating officers for its successful implementation.

"India is set for a significant overhaul of its criminal justice system. These new laws have transitioned India's legal framework on criminal justice into a new age," CJI Chandrachud said at an event here on 'India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System'.

The new laws—Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA)—which were passed by Parliament and signed by the President in 2023 come into force from July 1.

The BNSS encompasses a holistic approach to deal with crimes in the digital age. It prescribes audio-visual recording of search and seizures and the presence of a forensic expert at the crime scene for offences punishable with more than seven years imprisonment.

The audio-visual recording of search and seizures is an important tool for the prosecution as well as for protecting the civil liberties, the CJI said. Judicial scrutiny would safeguard the rights of citizens against procedural impropriety during search and seizures, he added.

Speaking at the event, Union law minister Arjun Ram Meghwal took a swipe at the opposition over their allegations of misuse of the Enforcement Directorate and CBI by the Centre.

As the first phase of Lok Sabha polls kicked off on April 19 across the country, the CJI said one of our foremost duties as a citizen is to cast the vote.

Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal (left) and CJI D Y Chandrachud at an event | PTI

HAS MUCH NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS

Much needed improvements have been introduced in the new laws to protect the victim's interests and carry out investigation and prosecution of offences efficiently, CJI Chandrachud said

EXPRESS READ

Boy struck by lightning dies in Kalaburagi

Bengaluru: A 12- year-old boy died after he was struck by lightning at Narona village in Kalaburagi district on Saturday. The boy has been identified as Mahesh Tegginamani. His father Nagaraj sustained severe burn injuries. P7

Edge-of-the-seat thriller in the offing as Dilip Tirkey tries to dribble past Jual Oram

PRASANJEET SARKAR @ Rourkela

SHOWTIME FOR GLADIATORS

A rerun of an epic fight is in the offing in Odisha's reserved Sundargarh Lok Sabha constituency where BJP stalwart and sitting MP Jual Oram (63) has locked horns with Indian hockey legend Dilip Tirkey (46) of the BJD.

The former Union tribal affairs minister and the present Hockey India president have been old rivals with Jual edging past Dilip in a triangular contest that also featured former chief minister Hemanand Biswal of the Congress in 2014. Dilip was surprisingly dropped in 2019 and the BJD fielded Biswal's daughter Sunita against Jual but failed to gain any traction.

This time, BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik has fallen back on Dilip to unseat Jual who is seeking his sixth victory to end his electoral politics on a high note. The sitting MP, one of the most prominent tribal leaders in the BJP, has already made his "last election" an emotional campaign pitch along with the overriding Modi factor. "It is my last election. After 35 years in electoral politics, I intend to make way for the new generation," Jual says.

In Dilip, a Catholic Christian and inarguably the greatest sports icon of Odisha, the BJD has sought to address multiple sections of the voters even though the previous attempt had failed. Sundargarh district has been considered the cradle of hockey in India. For the majority tribal population, hockey is a way of life, especially the tribal Christians.

Rising from the interiors of the district to make way into the Indian national team and become the captain, bringing laurels to the country in many international tournaments, Dilip has been a matter of pride for the people of the region. But that, somehow, has not translated into the electoral backing for him.

This year, however, has the potential for an edge-of-the-seat thriller. In a well-thought strategy to register its first-ever win from Sundargarh, the BJD government had laid out the stage five years ago to cash in on the people's craze for hockey. The government had constructed the world's largest Birsa Munda international hockey stadium at Rourkela and successfully co-hosted the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup (HWC) last year.

Simultaneously, astro-turf hockey training centres were constructed in all 17 blocks of Sundargarh.

The BJD's strategy appears to be to pull maximum hockey-loving and Christian voters through Dilip. It has targeted other segments of voters on Naveen Patnaik's popularity, the plank of development works and politics of doling out goodies to all. Dilip also never forgets to remind voters about Naveen's contribution to hockey and development of sports, including infrastructure and facilities in the district.

"Under his leadership Odisha has been witnessing rapid all-round development, economic growth and welfare of the people. The people's overwhelming love for our CM is all pervasive. The BJD will win the LS and all seven Assembly seats under it," he asserts.

CONTINUED ON: P7

ILLUSTRATION: MANDAR PARDIKAR

He (BY Vijeayendra) contended in his statement that because of the five guarantees, the state government has become bankrupt
KPCC's letter to Election Commission

POLLING DATE
PHASE-2 APRIL 26
PHASE-3 MAY 7

DAYS TO GO
PHASE-2 5
PHASE-3 16

TOTAL SEIZURES
₹402.39 crore

FIRs BOOKED
1,937

VOTE FROM HOME
PHASE-2 APRIL 13-18, 2024
VALID NOMINATIONS FOR PHASE-3 272

TWEET OF THE DAY

Congress' poor governance and vote bank politics do not resonate with the people. Karnataka is strongly supporting the NDA
@narendramodi, Prime Minister

'B'luru fuelled India's digital revolution'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

"THE Union government is constructing warehouses to store farm produce. We have introduced ragi to the world," he said. But the Congress government has stopped the PM Kisan Samman Scheme.

Modi said Bengaluru turned out to be India's biggest digital hub. "Your contribution to India's digital revolution is more. Mobile data in 2014 was Rs 250 for 1 GB which is now Rs 10. One can imagine how much money is being saved. We are also working on data security," he said.

The PM said that in the last 10 years, his government spent more on social, physical and digital infrastructure, which help the urban poor to improve their quality of life. "Across India, we have constructed 10 crore of houses for the urban poor, including 84,000 in Bengaluru alone, saving crores of rupees," he added.

"We have increased the use of drones. Also due to digital India, many new industries have come up. Opposition parties alleged we are going to close HAL. But today, it has broken all records and got the highest work orders. Would it have been possible if Congress was ruling?" he questioned, and promised that Karnataka would get the bullet train.

He urged BJP workers to ensure that more people come out and vote in Bengaluru this time.

Former CM BS Yediyurappa said in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Congress won 52 seats. "I challenge them to show and retain the same number of seats this time," he said.

BJP candidates for four Bengaluru Lok Sabha constituencies — Dr CN Manjunath (Bangalore Rural), Tejasvi Surya (Bangalore South), Shobha Kharandlaje (Bangalore North), and PC Mohan (Bangalore Central) — were present.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves at supporters, flanked by former prime minister HD Deve Gowda and BJP Lok Sabha candidate for Chikkaballapur Dr K Sudhakar, at a public meeting, in Chikkaballapur on Saturday | EXPRESS

EVERYONE NOW WANTS STRONG TIES WITH OUR COUNTRY: MODI

'I.N.D.I.A throwing accusations at me, NDA focusing on growth'

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi said here on Saturday that everyone across the globe wants to have a strong relationship with India now. "We are not followers anymore, we have become the first mover," he said, and vowed to work 24x7 to make India a developed nation by 2047.

Speaking at Vijay Sankalp Yatre in Bengaluru, he said ten years ago, the country was in a bad shape because of its struggling economy. "Investors would not come forward then. But now, they are investing huge amounts, breaking all their previous records. We were in the 11th position in the world economy, but we are now among the top five," he said.

"You have witnessed these changes and who is responsible for this," he asked the audience. When they chanted "Modi Modi", he corrected them saying, "This happened because of your one vote."

He said, "You have seen the campaigns of both NDA and I.N.D.I.A bloc. While the opposition bloc is focusing more on heaping allegations against Modi, NDA is focusing on improving India's global image."

He said, "Congress is focused on corruption and not development. The I.N.D.I.A bloc is opposed to technology, Aadhaar and Jan Dhan accounts. It even opposed Covid vaccine."

He said that in 2014, a person with an income of Rs 2 lakh had to pay income tax, now the limit has gone up to Rs 7 lakh. "During the UPA government, there were many taxes, but now we have made it simple by introducing GST. LED bulbs that cost Rs 400 in 2014 are now priced at Rs 40. We have focused more on electric vehicles, reducing dependence on fossil fuels. The Ayushman Bharat has been a game changer, which has been extended to senior citizens, reducing the burden on youth for the treatment of their parents," he said.

Vande Bharat trains have brought in a revolution. "In the coming days, made-in-India flights will come. We have eased the drone policy and we will soon move from 6G from 5G in the telecommunication network," he said.

"India is also emerging as a leader in artificial intelligence. We have become successful in Chandrayan and we will take up Gaganyaan," he added.

Gowda slams Congress

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

DEVE Gowda condemned the Congress for issuing advertisements of a cup that described the contribution of the Modi government as "chombu" — a slang for empty metal pot in Kannada — and described it as "cheap politics."

Displaying the advertisement from a newspaper alongside PM Modi in Chikkaballapur, the nonagenarian former PM said the Congress should be ashamed of itself. He said, "It was actually the Congress government that handed over a chombu to Modi when he became PM in 2014." Gowda slammed CM Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar claiming that the Congress helmed by Sonia Gandhi and Manmohan Singh between 2004 and 2014 were accused of many corruption cases and had subsequently "looted the country".

Praising Modi, Gowda said, "Modi has now turned that chombu into an akshaya patra."

I challenge them (Congress) to show and retain the same number of seats this time (compared to last LS polls of 2019)
BS Yediyurappa, former chief minister

It was actually the Congress government that handed over a chombu to Modi when he became PM in 2014
HD Deve Gowda, former prime minister

Then 'PayCM', now Cong launches 'Chombu' campaign against PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Congress, which had set a narrative with its 'PayCM' campaign against the previous BJP government led by Basavaraj Bommai during the 2023 Assembly polls, has launched a new 'chombu' (vessel) campaign against the Centre in the ensuing Lok Sabha polls in Karnataka.

Coinciding with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the city, Congress leaders, including MLA Rizwan Arshad and AICC secretary Abhishek Dutt, staged a demonstration at Mehkri Circle under the leadership of AICC general secretary and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda and Bengaluru North Lok Sabha candidate Prof MV Rajeev Gowda held similar protests seperately.

"When the people and farmers of Karnataka asked for drought relief, the BJP government gave an empty 'chombu'. In the 15th Finance Commission, when we asked for the share due to the state, the Centre gave us 'chombu'," alleged Surjewala.

Further, he highlighted that the budgetary promise of Rs 5,300 crore for the implementation of the Upper Bhadra Project has not been released, the state getting a mere Rs 13 as its share against Rs 100 paid as tax to the Centre. Also, the peripheral ring road in Bengaluru did not get the required funds, he added.

"So this time around, the people of Karnataka and the country will give BJP an empty 'chombu' in the election," he mocked.

Ahead of the 2023 Assembly polls, the Congress had made use of 40 per cent commission allegation by the contractors to launch the 'PayCM' campaign, and this time around, it has been harping on the alleged step-motherly treatment meted out to the state by the Modi government at the Centre over issues of tax devolution and NDRF funds against drought relief.

AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala and other leaders hold a 'chombu' protest against the BJP government at the Centre, in Bengaluru on Saturday | EXPRESS

Cong workers protest in B'luru holding chombu

ENS @ Bengaluru

HUNDREDS of Congress workers, led by AICC state in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala, protested with 'chombu' (drinking water pot), alleging that the BJP-led Union government has not released drought relief to the state and a rightful share of central taxes. He said the central government has given Kannadigas the chombu, a figurative term for swindling.

The protesters held up chombus and protested on Saturday morning at Mekhri Circle, the spot not far from where Prime Minister Narendra Modi was to address a mega gathering later in the evening. They called the Union government a "Chombu sarkara". They alleged that Modi has done injustice to the state and not released drought relief, while not responding to Karnataka's issues.

The Sadashivanagar police detained the protesters, including Surjewala, Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad, AICC Secretary Abhishek Dutt, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee Media and Communication wing Chairman Ramesh Babu and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's daughter Aishwarya.

Nalapad raised slogans

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

NALAPAD and the KPYC worker, who were in a car, jumped to the main road, breaching security, and started protesting. Nalapad raised slogans showing the "chombu". Police personnel snatched the "chombu" from him and tried to stop him from raising slogans. When Nalapad argued with them for not allowing him to protest, he was forced into a police car. He and the KPYC worker were taken to the jurisdictional Sadashivanagar police station.

"Police personnel prevented Nalapad and another person from doing any mischief. They were detained near the KTM bike showroom. It cannot be termed a security breach as they were detained minutes before the convoy left the Palace Grounds," BK Shekar, DCP (Central), told *TNSE*. In all, 2,000 police personnel, including two additional commissioners of police and four DCPs, were deployed for the PM's rally.

POLL VAULT

With empty coffers, Siddu knocking at Modi's doors for funds: HDK

MYSURU: Former CM HD Kumaraswamy launched a scathing attack against the Congress government in Karnataka, accusing it of emptying the state treasury and relying on PM Narendra Modi to fill it. Speaking to reporters after seeking blessings at Suttur Mutt here on Saturday, Kumaraswamy criticised the Congress for its "empty chombu" advertisement, which actually indicates the depletion of public funds under their rule. Kumaraswamy highlighted the contrast between the state's financial status during the BJP government's tenure, which he claimed kept the treasury prosperous even during the Covid crisis, and the current situation of an empty treasury under Congress rule. The former CM further criticised the handling of law and order, citing instances of violence and crime across the state.

All promises made by Modi are hollow, says Surjewala

KOLAR: The assurances by the Centre headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the last 10 years were hollow as people of the nation never benefited by any of the scheme od the Union government, AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala has said. Speaking to media persons by flashing empty vessels here on Saturday, Surjewala said when the Congress government announced five guarantees, the BJP and the JDS mocked at it and said it is impossible to implement the schemes as it will lead to financial crunch. "The Grand Old Party has now won the hearts of the people by implementing all the five guarantees in the state without affecting the financial condition of the state. The party had announced the schemes only after consulting the financial experts," he said.

FIRs against Shivakumar, Vijayendra, Kumaraswamy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

FIRs have been filed against Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, Karnataka BJP president BY Vijayendra and JDS state president and former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy, the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka, announced on Saturday.

The CEO, Karnataka, made this announcement on X. While the CEO said the FIR against Shivakumar is in connection with a violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), the complaint against Vijayendra was for disturbing public tranquillity, and the one against Kumaraswamy was for giving false statements in connection with elections.

The CEO said the complaint against Shivakumar was for violating the MCC, while addressing apartment dwellers in Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru. The case was registered against the DCM after a purported video of his conversation with apartment dwellers had gone viral. In the video, Shivakumar allegedly promised to grant a Civic Amenity (CA) site, assuring regular water supply along with other benefits, if his brother DK Suresh, who is contesting from the Bangalore Rural Lok Sabha constituency, was voted to power.

The FIR against Shivakumar is filed at RMC Yard police station, Bengaluru.

'False statements'

Further, the CEO put out a post stating that the Flying Surveillance Team (FST) has filed an FIR against Vijayendra for allegedly posting a derogatory post on the official X handle of Karnataka BJP on Friday. The FIR was lodged against Vijayendra at Malleswaram police station in Bengaluru. "The police have filed the case under Sections 125 and 505 of the People's Representative Act (RP Act) and IPC 153A for disturbing public tranquillity," the CEO's post read.

Also, an FIR was registered against Kumaraswamy for the accusation that he was giving false statements in connection with elections. The FIR against the JDS leader is filed at Gubbi police station, Tumakuru.

FACE-OFF

Youth want Modi as PM again: Poojary; Focus must be on job creation: Hegde

THE Udupi-Chikkamagalur Lok Sabha constituency is witnessing spirited campaigning by leaders of both BJP and Congress. While BJP's Kota Srinivas Poojary is focusing on development-centric agenda and nationalistic fervour, Congress' K Jayaprakash Hegde is talking more of unattended issues of the constituency. They spoke to Principal Correspondent **Prakash Samaga.** Excerpts...

How is the response from the electorate?

Kota Srinivas Poojary: Party workers are tirelessly working in all the 1,838 booths in the constituency. The youth, irrespective of their caste and other differences, want Narendra Modi as Prime Minister again. Voters have acknowledged the nationalist and inclusive agenda of BJP.

What are the expectations of the people in the constituency?

Poojary: Voters expect developmental projects required in the constituency, like the extension of rail connectivity to Chikkamagaluru, better road connectivity between Udupi and Chikkamagaluru.

Kota Srinivas Poojary

K Jayaprakash Hegde

Which projects will you focus on if elected as an MP?

Poojary: The issue of coffee growers in Chikkamagaluru has to be addressed first. When the BJP government was in the state, it had decided to lease out up to 25 acres of government land encroached by coffee growers for 30 years. The Congress government is not implementing it, causing problems for small coffee growers. I want to focus on developing small jetties in Udupi for the benefit of fisherfolk.

K Jayaprakash Hegde: The issue of unemployment is haunting the youth and people want change.

What are you hearing during your campaigning?

Hegde: People are mainly expressing their dissatisfaction, saying that MP Shobha Karandlaje did not visit the constituency regularly. They want a change.

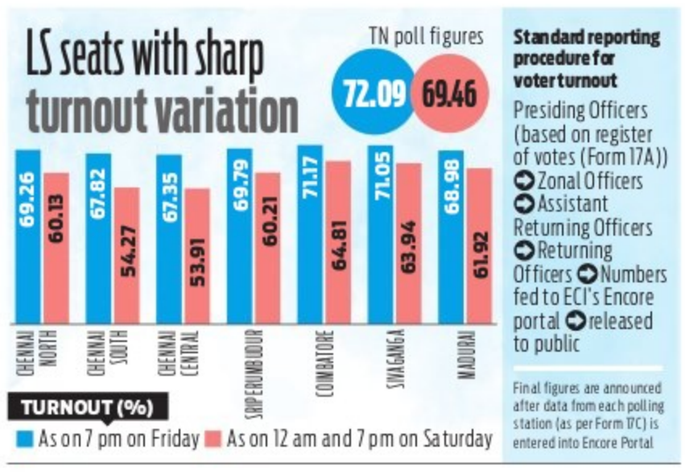
What are the major issues of the constituency?

Hegde: Employment generation has stopped in the constituency. Youth are not getting jobs in their hometowns. We need to bring some eco-friendly industries here and create jobs. Issues concerning areca nut growers are another major problem that need to be addressed. There is also the issue of water scarcity in the constituency. Projects have to be envisioned by irrigation department officials to address water scarcity issues. Government multi-speciality hospitals should also come to the constituency as Ayushman Bharat scheme is not so effective because of limited beds in empanelled hospitals.

What are the new promises you are making to the electorate?

Hegde: The development of tourism is my focus, as it will generate jobs and develop infrastructure. Development of coastal and temple tourism should take place. Railway connectivity should also improve in Udupi and Chikkamagaluru.

Mild tension prevailed at NTR district commissionerate on Saturday as the family of the second accused in the attack on Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, reached the city police commissioner office demanding to produce Durga Rao in the court. The family alleged that Durga Rao was taken in custody on Tuesday and since there was no sign of him since



DIP IN TN VOTER TURNOUT WORRYING, SAYS POLL PANEL

'Detailed analysis will be done to find out what contributed to the decrease'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chennai

ACCORDING to yet-to-be-finalised estimates of the assembly wise voter turnout, eight assembly segments in the city, including Anna Nagar, Thiyagarayanagar and Mylapore, put up a poor show.

Villivakkam, Anna Nagar, Saidapet, Thiyagarayanagar, Mylapore, Harbour, Thousand Lights and Virugambakkam registered the least number of votes in the city. Thousand Lights had the least turn out overall at 52.4% while the remaining seven constituencies registered around 53% turnout. Dr Radhakrishnan Nagar under Chennai North parliamentary constituency registered the highest turnout of 66.75% in the city.

In Chennai Central, Egmore recorded the highest turnout of 56.9% and in Chennai South, it was Sholinganallur with 55.33%. Saidapet, considered a DMK bastion, also saw a low turnout of 53.25%, the least in Chennai South.

While it largely remains a DMK stronghold, it has swung towards the AIADMK in five of the 13 assembly elections since 1971. According to official sources, the final numbers will officially be released by Saturday midnight.

District Election Officer J Radhakrishnan said that a detailed analysis was being carried out to look at possible factors that could have contributed to the low turnout.

Following the completion of the Lok Sabha elections in the state on Friday, the electronic voting machines (EVMs) from the polling booths in Chennai Central constituency were brought to the strong room at Loyola College in the city.

The room was then sealed before district election officer and Chennai corporation commissioner J Radhakrishnan and general election observer D Suresh, Chennai Central returning officer and regional deputy commission KJ Praveen Kumar and representatives of political parties.

Many parts in K'taka get rain, lightning kills 12-yr-old

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru/Kalaburgi

A 12- year old boy, died after he was struck by lightning in Narona village of Aland taluk, Kalaburgi on Saturday afternoon.

The boy has been identified as Mahesh Tegginamani. His father Nagaraj, sustained severe burn injuries due to the lightning, and was immediately rushed to a hospital for treatment.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) officials said that all areas of North Karnataka, barring Raichur, Yadgir, Dharwad and Haveri, experienced severe lightning and thunder showers, and predicted thunder showers coupled with lightning for most parts of Karnataka for the next two days. The officials also noted that Coastal Karnataka had experienced hail stones and heavy rainfall on Friday. However, South Interior Karnataka did not experience any thunder or lightning.

Kumta in Uttara Kannada district recorded 13cms rain, Gokarna recorded 10cms rain, Manki recorded 8cms rain, till Saturday morning. Koppa and Kammardi recorded 7cms rain each, while Mangaluru, Udupi and J ayapura in Chikkamagaluru recorded 6cms rain each. Kundapur, Balehonnur and Chikkamagaluru recorded 5cms rain.

Senior scientist at IMD A Prasad said that due to the presence of a trough from Comorin area to south Telangana in lower tropospheric levels, most parts of north and coastal Karnataka are experiencing heavy rainfall. "Wherever the convergence is moving, there is an updraft which is leading to thunder showers. The intensity is more in North Interior Karnataka and surrounding areas."

Vehicles wade through flooded streets of Kalaburagi on Saturday. Many parts of Karnataka witnessed thunderstorms and lightning on Saturday | EXPRESS

Bengaluru on the other hand experienced light rainfall. While residents in some areas of Sarjapura, HSR and Bommanahalli said there were hail stones; IMD officials and Karnataka State Natural Disaster and Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) said that no hail storms were recorded in their rain gauges.

Explaining the situation in Bengaluru, Scientist-E of IMD Chanabasagouda S Patil said that the pre-monsoon showers are delayed this season. It was supposed to start in March, but the city has not witnessed any good rain even after 50 days delay. There is development of high pressure cell 2.1 km above the mean sea level. This anti-circulation is not allowing the formation of clumino-nimbus clouds, which is why Bengaluru is not experiencing heavy rainfall. It is also because of the El Nino effect. As per IMD bulletin, the city recorded no rainfall. HAL and KIA recorded trace (less than 0.1mm) rainfall, on till 5.30pm.

As per KSNDMC Anekal recorded 12mm rainfall, Doddatuguru 11mm and Sunehalli 10mm. Rajajinagar, Vijayanagar, Kengeri, Begur, Billekanahalli, Kodigehalli, Bagaluru, Bommanahalli, Arsikere, BTM, Tavarekere, Cholanayakanahalli, Bellandur, Hampinagar, Padarayanapura and Taverekere received 5-7mm rainfall.

BEAT THE HEAT

A police woman wears a special AC helmet, in Bhubaneswar on Saturday. The police personnel are given these helmets to bear the intense heat | SHAMIM QURESHY

Educate students on Tele MANAS: UGC

PURAN CHOUDHARY @Bengaluru

WITH students taking the extreme step under academic pressure, the University Grants Commission (UGC) earlier this month directed all higher educational institutions (HEIs) to widely publicise the free mental health helpline number available 24/7 for the benefit of those in need of help.

Data accessed by TNSE from the Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking with States (Tele MANAS) programme revealed that an average of 9,000 calls are recorded every month from individuals in the age group of 15 to 30 years. Since its inception in 2022, approximately over one lakh calls have been recorded under this age group.

Developed in collaboration with NIMHANS and the International Institute of Information Technology and Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B) to enable the national-level launch of the helpline, most calls from youngsters are about developmental problems, issues in schools, exam and performance pressure, parental reaction and possible failures. Some also complain of sleep disturbance and insomnia.

Welcoming the UGC directive, Dr Naveen Kumar C, Professor of Psychiatry and Head of Community Psychiatry, NIMHANS, said, "Given the prevalence of younger callers, particularly students and young professionals, it becomes imperative to address the mental health needs of this demographic. Educational institutions serve as strategic platforms for outreach because of the considerable time students spend there." He added that this demographic is also relatively well-educated, making them effective advocates for mental health awareness within their communities.

On how the data is recorded and accessed, TK Srikanth, Convener, E-health Research Centre, IIIT-B, said these numbers are proxies as only those individuals who have chosen to disclose their age and other details are recorded. He added that data shows more males dial the helpline in the above bracket.

With studies showing that suicide is among the fourth leading cause of death among late adolescent groups, he emphasised the role of educational institutions in addressing this problem. Karnataka has recorded 48,731 calls to date and with more awareness campaigns, the Tele-MANAS portal is capable of handling five to six times more calls, said the team.

Minister says Neha's murder probe will be thorough

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

REACTING to Mumtaz seeking forgiveness, Neha's mother said, "This will not help us get our daughter back."

Meanwhile, Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar met Neha's parents and assured them of a thorough probe into the case. Condemning the act, she said ensuring justice to the aggrieved family is more important than using the incident for narrow political gains.

Moreover, its politicisation may lead the probe in a different direction, she added. Senior BJP leader Jagadish Shettar expressed concern over attempts being made to damage the reputation of Neha and her family.

Stating G Parameshwara's statement was uncalled for, he said the minister should have waited for proper information. Shettar blamed the "appeasement" politics of the Congress for such incidents. Hubballi-Dharwad police commissioner Renuka Sukumar said that the probe is moving in the right direction and would be completed at the earliest.

Culprit deserves capital punishment: MB Patil

Bengaluru: Industries Minister MB Patil on Saturday termed the girl student's murder in Hubballi as a heinous act and opined that the culprit deserves capital punishment. Speaking to reporters he said the legal proceedings in the case should be carried out on a fast-track basis in fast-track courts to avoid delay. The culprits in such cases should be harshly punished without delay, he said. Awarding of capital punishment will help avoid the recurrence of such incidents, Patil said, and added that the heinous act of a girl student's murder is highly condemnable. He said the central government and state governments should work in coordination to frame laws allowing capital punishment for the guilty in heinous crimes. The minister also said there should be a provision to award capital punishment for those who are found guilty in rape cases related to minors.

CRIME PATROL

28-yr-old robbed by two miscreants

Bengaluru: A 28-year-old bar and restaurant employee was robbed by two miscreants in an auto. The victim is identified as BM Umesh, a native of Kanakapura. He was waiting for a bus in Banashankari when two men offered his a ride, saying they were also going to Kankapura. Midway, they threatened Umesh and took all his cash. They also forced him to send money through UPI. They dropped him in the middle of the road and fled the spot. He was robbed of Rs 19,000 including Rs 8,000 cash. Jayanagar police filed a case.

3 Africans detained for attacking cops

Bengaluru: Three people of African origin were taken into custody by the CCB for attacking six policemen during a raid at the residence of alleged drug peddlers in Mavallipura, simultaneously with eight others under different charges. Though the connection between the two groups is yet to be ascertained, the eight foreigners were initially arrested for suspected drug peddling and illegal stay on lapsed visas. The three detained, are now being questioned about the eight others.

Tribals have been with saffron party since 90s

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

THE BJD draws confidence from the fact that in 2022, it won 33 of 35 Zilla Parishad seats and two urban local bodies (ULB). Still, it is too much of an ask for the BJD, especially when Assembly and LS voting patterns are altogether different from local polls. However, the regional outfit's bid to penetrate the BJP's traditional bastion is fraught with tough challenges as the former Union minister is firmly holding his ground. The tribals have been with the BJP since the 1990s, hence Jual's record of winning five of six elections with two tenures as Cabinet minister.

When the BJP was a non-entity in Odisha in 1990, Jual was one of the only two MLAs in the state winning from Bonai segment under the LS constituency. He repeated the victory in 1995. In 1998, he won the LS seat with a lead of over 1.26 lakh votes, and in 1999, he returned to Parliament with a more emphatic victory. Jual became the first tribal affairs minister in the country, as a separate ministry was created by the Vajpayee government. He won the 2004 LS election but suffered a shock defeat to Hemanand in 2009.

He bounced back in 2014 and returned as the tribal affairs minister in the Modi government. Though not been made a minister in 2019, Jual has been one of the seniormost leaders of the BJP with a formidable following. There are multiple factors in his favour. First and foremost is the popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Droupadi Murmu, a tribal woman from Odisha, becoming the President of India has as fuelled positive sentiments among the tribals here while the various welfare programmes of the Modi government has created a committed "labharthi" base as seen in other parts of the country.

Moreover, there is a perceptible undercurrent for the BJP over the Ram temple issue, thanks to the deep inroads made by the RSS and its affiliates in the region. Expressing confidence in his victory, Jual summed up his challenger saying, "Dilip is like my younger brother and a former star international hockey player. But, he lacks experience and is relatively novice in electoral politics."

On the political front, the return of former Union minister of coal Dilip Ray to the BJP and contest from Rourkela has come as a boon for Jual. The LS seat has about 15.67 lakh registered voters and about 7.99 lakh are tribal voters, including Christians. Christian and Muslim voters account for about around 2.85 lakh and 75,000, respectively. They have been traditionally wooed by the Congress and BJD. Dilip is likely to corner a majority of the non-Hindu votes and the rest would go to the Congress candidate Janardan Dehury.

Dehury, a former MLA of Bonai and president of the Sundargarh District Congress Committee, is far behind in the race. There are about 3 lakh voters of Bhuiya tribe, which had been a mainstay vote bank of the Congress, but since last 15 years they have drifted towards the BJP and BJD.

The BJP, on the other hand, has relied on Hindu and non-convert tribal voters. Whatever marginal non-Hindu votes come to it is a bonus.

Social activist V P Tiwari of Rourkela said Dilip's celebrity status is largely confined to the hockey-loving tribal population in rural pockets, while urban voters are largely inclined towards the BJP, adding Jual has the advantage of the Modi factor. Dilip has to work extra hard to catch up, he said.

Harbour trial of Samudrayaan deferred to June

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

THE harbour trial for 'Samudrayaan' -- a three-member deep sea mission that is scheduled for 2025 – is now likely to be held in June, after the Lok Sabha elections, said sources, who didn't wish to be named. The harbour trials were initially scheduled for March-April this year in Chennai by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT).

The postponement is because of "delay in delivery of some components of the vehicle," the sources added. 'Samudrayaan' is an ambitious project of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and is being implemented as part of the Rs 4,800 crore 'Deep Ocean Mission' (DOM). NIOT is an autonomous society under the MoES.

After the harbour trial, the NIOT will plan shallow water exploration at the depth of 500 metres in the ocean later this year before the final deep sea mission at 6,000 metres sometime next year. The shallow water exploration is being planned inside the Bay of Bengal in a steel submersible.

"NIOT has recruited a former naval officer to pilot Samudrayaan exploration and two other pilots. The latter are trained in handling unmanned sea vehicles. They, along with some other ocean scientists at the institute are being trained as pilots who will conduct manned deep sea explorations subject to approval," said sources. In the latter half of the year, NIOT is also expecting the delivery of a titanium alloy human sphere, which will seat the three ocean explorers from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Titanium is lighter but stronger than steel, and keeps the weight of deep-diving vehicles as low as possible. It requires minimum maintenance, has an extended lifecycle and has incomparable anti-corrosive properties. Other components for 'Matsya 6000' like the syntactic foam for the manned chamber are being imported and delivery is expected later this year. Syntactic foams, a mixture of billions of microscopic hollow glass or ceramic spheres in epoxy or plastic resin are widely used in submarines because of their remarkable buoyancy and strength.

Express staffer dies of heart attack

Bengaluru: Saravana R (49), machineman at the Rotary Department of Express Publications (Madurai) Pvt, Ltd, Bengaluru, died of a heart attack on April 18. Saravana joined the New Indian Express Group on September 01, 2008, as an assistant machineman. He served the organisation for 16 years. He is survived by his wife and a daughter.

Cracker display triggers row at Thrissur Pooram

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Thrissur

THE Thrissur Pooram witnessed dramatic scenes late on Friday after Thiruvambady devaswom stopped the ceremonies abruptly protesting the "unwanted restrictions by the police". Much to the disappointment of the large crowd of people who gathered at the Swaraj Round in the wee hours of Saturday, the fireworks display was delayed for over three hours. The unusual turn of events -- happening just days ahead of the Lok Sabha election -- triggered a controversy, leading to a political blame game.

V S Sunilkumar, LDF candidate in the Thrissur LS constituency, unleashed severe criticism on the police, saying they were harsh and lacked proper supervision. He said the revenue minister and district collector intervened to resolve the situation and continue the ceremonies.

Meanwhile, UDF candidate K Muraleedharan alleged that both state and Union governments tried to sabotage the Thrissur Pooram, an icon of Kerala. "Where was the revenue minister when all these crisis happened? Isn't he supposed to act effectively so that the centuries-old rituals of Thrissur Pooram didn't get interrupted," he asked.

Kudamattom ceremony, part of Thrissur Pooram

Muraleedharan alleged that he suspect the whole drama at night was an attempt to give space for the BJP and NDA candidate Suresh Gopi ahead of elections. "Even kudamattom was conducted without any issues. Suddenly everything changed at night and what happened in between should be probed," he said.

> Why is the PM not releasing Rs. 18,000 crores for Karnataka's drought hit farmers?
> Jairam Ramesh, Congress leader

PIC: NAGARAJA GADEKAL

'CONGRESS GUARANTEES NOT SUSTAINABLE, DON'T EMPOWER WOMEN'

AFTER officially joining BJP recently, actor-turned-politician **Sumalatha Ambareesh** is campaigning for the party. She was elected as an independent MP from Karnataka's Mandya Lok Sabha constituency in 2019 and was hoping to seek reelection on a BJP ticket. Sumalatha spoke to **Ashwini M Sripad** of *The New Sunday Express* about her political future, decision to join BJP and State government's guarantee schemes, which she says are not sustainable and have not empowered the women. Excerpts.

You won as an independent candidate in 2019. Why join the BJP now?
My decision was a surprise for many. I have joined the party that did not give me a ticket to contest. In politics, people quit the party if they are not given a ticket. I believe in Modi's leadership as I had seen him working closely. What he is doing for the country is absolutely fantastic. I should not be thinking about my future now or thinking about what I will get. I am not that kind of a person. I believe in his vision and it is my duty to support his vision.

What is your opinion on the BJP-JDS alliance in Karnataka?
Alliance is born out of certain reasons and regions. In the Old Mysuru region, BJP was not seen traditionally as the first choice for a long time. Somewhere they felt that this was the time to cover this, too. This was done in the best interests of the party to win maximum seats.

Why did you not contest polls this time?
It is not a joke to contest MP polls as an independent candidate and win. I won as an independent MP after 52 years in Karnataka. It's not a phenomenon that can recur every five years. I am realistic about it. The political scenario at that time was different. That time BJP supported me, the Congress workers in Mandya supported me, but not the Congress leadership. That's how I won. This time the situation is different. BJP and JDS are in alliance and I did not want to go to Congress for certain reasons as I was not given due respect there. I had no intention of going where I am not respected.

Were you both discussing politics when Ambareesh was there?
We had healthy and strong discussions. I always used to play the devil's advocate with him. I used to speak pro-BJP. We were watching Modi as Gujarat CM and then later as Prime Minister. Those were just discussions and I was not interested in politics....Once he left, there was a vacuum and the remaining fell into place.

What next for you now?
I want to see the BJP gaining ground in the Old Mysuru region, especially Mandya where it is weakest. Also, across the state, wherever my presence is required to strengthen the party. We have to start from the grassroot level. At least I want to make an attempt and strengthen the party in this region.

Actor Darshan who campaigned for you last time in Mandya, did campaigning for Congress candidate this time from the same Mandya region. What is your take on this?
Darshan is not a small child where I can instruct him where to go. Darshan will stand by me when I contest, which he did. He will do so even in the future. Otherwise he is a free person. He never campaigned for any party, but for people. He does not necessarily inform me about his campaigning. We don't discuss politics when I am not in the fray.

Q&A

What do you have to say about the Congress government's guarantee schemes ?
Fancy names cannot cover up for what they are terribly doing wrong. They are playing with the economy of the state and nation. They are playing with the future of the youth. Just to gain power, you cannot be so selfish and mislead the people.

But they claim these schemes are empowering women?
It is not empowering women. When you give something for free and not create jobs on which they can stand up with pride and dignity, you are asking them to reach out for Rs 2,000 and other freebies. The fact is that you cannot afford to do that. In a country like America, which has trillions of dollars in the economy, why are they not giving freebies to the homeless and poor there? No country can operate like that. You will end up becoming Pakistan or Sri Lanka — absolutely bankrupt and corrupt. It's not sustainable. We have to see how they will manage after Lok Sabha polls.

What are the challenges before BJP in Karnataka?
In 2019, BJP won 25 seats out of 28. Some of them might face anti-incumbency. The biggest challenge is how to convince people that the free guarantee schemes are at your own risk.

Will you go to campaign in Mandya?
All depends on the party. At Mandya, BJP leaders are campaigning including former CM BS Yediyurappa. Also, JDS has their own base there which is strong. BJP is sending me where the party needs me. Unless the party takes any decision on this, I cannot decide on my own to campaign there.

> *I want to see the BJP gaining ground in the Old Mysuru region... Also, across the state, wherever my presence is required to strengthen the party* – Sumalatha Ambareesh, BJP leader

DAYS BEFORE POLLS, CONG STICKS TO ITS STRATEGY; BJP RAISES LAW & ORDER ISSUES

POLITICAL RADAR
RAMU PATIL
Assistant Resident Editor
ramu@newindianexpress.com

CAMPAIGNING for the first phase of polls in Karnataka on April 26 is reaching a crescendo. It's getting shriller by the day. It will further intensify towards the fag end of electioneering. Several unsavoury and barbaric acts in the last few days seem to be changing the narrative, landing Congress on a sticky wicket.

As expected, the BJP is going hammer and tongs with its allegations of the minorities' appeasement politics by Congress and trying to put the spotlight on the law-and-order issue. Suddenly, the Congress that was pursuing its strategy of keeping the narrative around its five guarantees and attacking the Centre over delay in releasing drought relief funds and alleged disparity on devolution of taxes, has been put on the defensive to some extent.

The shift in the discourse is taking place just days before the voting in 14 key constituencies in the Old Mysuru region where the BJP-JDS alliance will be put to test, and in coastal Karnataka, which BJP considers its stronghold when it comes to the national elections. This probably would have been the last thing the Congress wanted at this juncture.

It's a tricky situation. Joining the issue with the BJP could threaten to take away the focus from its core issues, but at the same time, not responding adequately to the allegations of minority appeasement and law and order issues could strengthen the BJP's arguments.

A series of barbaric acts reported from different parts of the state in the last few days were unconnected acts of crime. The common string is that victims were all from one community while aggressors were mostly from another community. Three youngsters traveling in a car and chanting "Jai Shri Ram" during Ram Navami celebrations in Bengaluru were allegedly assaulted, a person claiming to be a creator of a pro-Modi song was allegedly attacked and forced to raise 'pro-Pakistan' slogans in Mysuru and before that, a shopkeeper playing devotional songs was beaten up.

These cases, reported after a blast at Rameshwaram Café in Bengaluru and the raising of slogans that sounded pro-Pakistan by Congress supporters in Vidhana Soudha corridors, are under investigation. The BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had slammed the Congress after one of the latter's senior legislators had to seek permission from a senior Congress leader to chant "Bolo Bharat Mata Ki Jai" at an election rally — a slogan that Modi and BJP leaders often use.

The major charge against Congress is that it has not shown tough posturing as those vested with the responsibility of maintaining law and order in the state. Callous remarks by ministers have only added to the party's woes.

Soon after the blast at Rameshwaram Café, Home Minister G Parameshwara jumped the gun by claiming that business rivalry could be one of the reasons. It turned out to be an act of terror and the NIA arrested the accused. Now, in the case of a young student's gruesome murder on the college campus in Hubli, the minister faced flak for stating that the boy and the girl were in a mutual relationship while Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the girl was killed due to personal reasons.

Their remarks left many, including victim Neha Hiremath's father Niranjan Hiremath, a Congress leader and City Corporation Councillor, angry. Niranjan alleged a "Love Jihad" angle and demanded stern action against Fayaz, who was arrested by local police.

Even assuming that the CM and Home Minister got the information from the police, is it prudent for them to talk about the relationship and rule out the allegations made by the girl's father even before the investigation is over? Their attempt may be to ensure that there is no social unrest, but why assume a social unrest angle when it appears to be a case of barbaric criminal act? Instead of jumping the gun before the probe, let the investigation continue and the government assure the family and society at large that whatever be the motive they will get to the bottom of it and get the guilty punished.

In the next few days, the BJP is likely to go full throttle on the issue, while Congress is making all-out efforts to keep the focus on its core issues. On Saturday, ahead of the PM's rally in Bengaluru, Congress ministers, and senior leaders staged protests holding empty "Chambus" (small water containers) to draw attention to alleged disparity in tax devolution and delay in getting drought relief funds.

As we enter the final rounds of campaigning, many central leaders from the BJP are expected to visit the state to add heft to the party's campaign, while Congress's star campaigner Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will campaign in Karnataka on Tuesday. Her brother, former AICC president Rahul Gandhi, campaigned in Mandya and Kolar last week. It is still not clear why Rahul chose to visit both JDS constituencies, leaving out equally high-profile seats where Congress is in direct fight with BJP. In any case in Karnataka, the Congress is mostly dependent on AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar.

Be that as it may, political parties will have their strategies and narratives, but it is ultimately the voters who will decide the candidates' fate. If you are a registered voter in any of the 14 constituencies which go to polls on April 26, please go out and exercise your right to make the change you want.

Politics, however, will continue even after the elections.

T'gana CM campaigns for Mansoor

ENS @ Bengaluru

TELANGANA Chief Minister Revanth Reddy campaigned for Congress candidates in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Taking a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Reddy said the former has joined hands with the JDS in Karnataka despite attacking JDS patriarch and former PM HD Deve Gowda and his son HD Kumaraswamy in the past. "This shows that Modi won't walk the talk, and winning elections is his only agenda," Reddy said while campaigning for Bangalore Central Congress candidate Mansoor Ali Khan in Mahadevapura.

Reddy said that despite Karnataka sending 25 BJP MPs to the Lok Sabha in the 2019 polls, only Pralhad Joshi was made a cabinet minister. The BJP meted out a similar injustice to Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, he added. "The BJP gave more plum portfolios to those from Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. Does it mean only those states have able leaders?" he questioned.

"Mallikarjuna Kharge is your man, and the Congress has made him its national president. Think about it and grab the opportunity to elect 25 Congress MPs from Karnataka. I.N.D.I.A bloc will form the next government at the Centre," he told the voters of Karnataka.

Reddy said that the Congress delivered the guarantees it promised ahead of the Assembly elections. "Will you vote for Congress or for Modi, who deceived the people of the country?" he asked the voters.

AHINDA PUZZLE

Change in caste equation may favour NDA candidates in Tumakuru, Ch'durga

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

CASTE equations seem to have undergone a major change in this Lok Sabha elections as communities like Lambani, Bhovi, SC (left) and Kadu Golla may back BJP for their own reasons.

The turning point was former prime minister HD Deve Gowda's speech on the floor of the Rajya Sabha promising the Scheduled Tribe tag for Kadu Gollas, which is considered a masterstroke as the video of his speech went viral on social media circuits. Taking advantage, Gowda is now reiterating it during his campaign speeches and associations representing these communities too have responded by openly throwing their weight behind the NDA candidates. This shift could have its effect especially in Tumakuru and Chitradurga Lok Sabha constituencies.

Lambanis are upset with the

Siddaramaiah cabinet not giving representation to their community in the cabinet. "We might have voted for Congress in the Assembly polls, but we will choose BJP in the Lok Sabha elections," said a community leader. They were averse to the previous BJP government led by then chief minister Basavaraj Bommai, which allegedly favoured the division of SC quota.

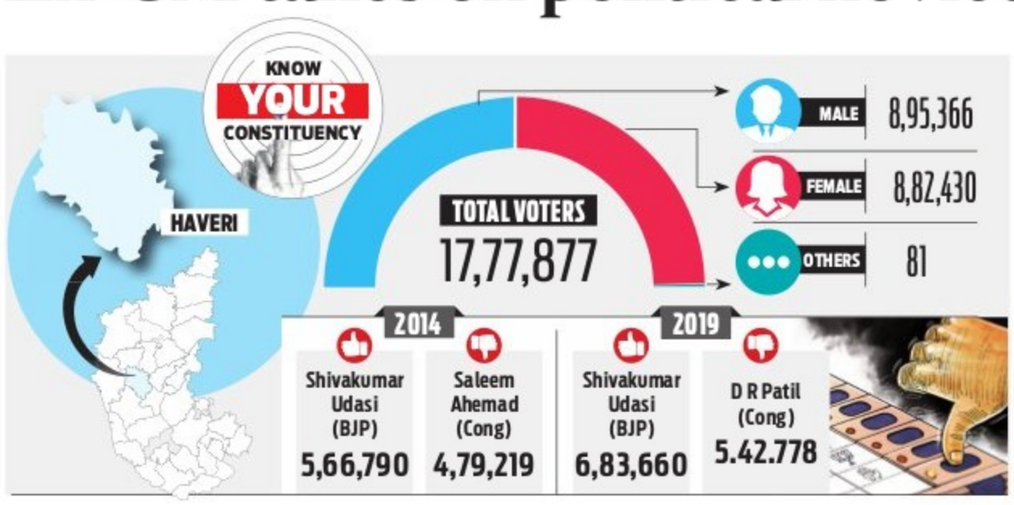
Star campaigner

Though Congress has given tickets to BN Chandrappa from Chitradurga and KV Gowtham from Kolar, both from SC (left), there is an undercurrent of anger as Food and Civil Supplies Minister KH Muniyappa, who represented Kolar seven times, has not been made the star campaigner.

As for the Vokkaliga votes, Congress had managed an increase of 4-5 per cent in the Assembly polls and it is to be seen whether the Lok Sabha elections will reflect the same trend. "But during the Assembly polls, Vokkaligas backed Congress as DK Shivakumar was being projected as a chief ministerial candidate," said a Congress leader from the community.

Whether Veerashaiva Lingayats rally behind BJP for the sake of former chief minister BS Yediyurappa and his son BY Vijayendra is to be seen. While Kurubas are likely to back Congress for Siddaramaiah's sake, Muslims have no option but to support the Grand Old Party as they have no option with JDS forging an alliance with BJP, pointed out a political analyst.

Ex-CM takes on political novice in Haveri



PRAMODKUMAR VAIDYA @ Hubballi

IT is the battle between a former chief minister from BJP and a political novice from Congress in the Haveri parliamentary constituency.

Though the saffron party has been winning the seat for the last four hustings, the Grand Old Party is trying hard to wrest back the constituency, which was once its pocket borough.

What is common between the candidates of both the national parties is that their candidates are facing the national election for the first time. As the incumbent MP Shivakumar Udasi kept himself away from electoral politics, BJP zeroed in on experienced Basavaraj Bommai, a two-time MLC and four-time MLA. Congress, which wanted to field senior minister HK Patil, later expressed confidence in Anandayya Gaddadevarmath, son of former MLA GS Gaddadevarmath.

Basavaraj Bommai (left) and Anandayya Gaddadevarmath

On paper, Congress looks strong as seven out of the eight Assembly segments in the parliamentary constituency are in its control. Hirekerur, Ranibennur, Haveri, Byadgi, Hangal, Gadag and Ron assembly segments are held by GOP, while Shirahatti is the only segment controlled by BJP. Such a strength certainly should help Congress, but Bommai has enough influence as his Assembly segment, Shiggaon, falls in Haveri district.

The caste equation in the constituency heavily tilts towards Lingayat community voters, who are around 6.5 lakh, and candidates of both the national parties are from this community, but of different sub-castes. Kuruba (OBC) and Muslim voters are equally distributed across the segment. While the saffron party relies on the Lingayat, OBC and other caste votes, the GOP depends on votes of Lingayats, Kurubas and minorities.

Apart from Modi guarantees, Bommai is counting on a series of development works taken up by him in the past as water resources minister and chief minister. He claims thousands of acres of arable land were irrigated with the implementation of irrigation projects and lift irrigation schemes. The former CM also says he continues to develop Haveri into an industrial hub as it falls on the Mumbai-Chennai Industrial Corridor.

Since Gaddadevarmath has no personal achievement to project, he is heavily dependent on the five guarantees of the state government. Minister Patil claims that over 99 per cent of voters in both Haveri and Gadag districts have benefited from the guarantees.

The major issues in the constituency are linking Bedti Halla with Varada river to address the drinking water problem and increase irrigation areas, building railway infrastructure for connectivity between Gadag and Haveri, building better industrial infrastructure to attract investments and improving basic amenities in rural parts. Udasi is blamed for not initiating any steps to improve infrastructure in the constituency and Congress is using this to counter BJP.

Voters, however, are divided. Some feel Bommai, being a former chief minister and MLA from Haveri, understands the problems well and could find solutions for them, especially related to the Union government. But others believe that as the state is being ruled by Congress, a representative from the same party could help them. However, the real opinion of the voters can be understood only on June 4.

Standing here, ten years into the rule of a racist, fascist, and oppressive government, I have no hesitation in saying to you that we are, at this moment in our nation's history, standing in the eye of such a storm. A storm that is wreaking havoc on the soul of India

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Congress leader

Thiruvananthapuram: The poll battle in Kerala capital is not just between two opposing ideologies, but also a clash of personalities, writes **Ravi Shankar**

3-time lucky, Tharoor charm continues to draw crowds

IT is a hot day in Thiruvananthapuram and Shashi Tharoor is hot property. Suntanned, voice hoarse after scores of speeches made at crossroads, marketplaces and local temples, Tharoor is enjoying his skirmishes in summer. The air is muggy with the ocean's salty breath, and he is fighting to retain his bailiwick, which has a large minority coastal population. His pitch isn't confined to Thiruvananthapuram. "At all my pit stops, I say my main objective is to change the Modi government in Delhi," he explains. The BJP's Christian outreach seems vulnerable after the Manipur pogroms. During Sunday sermons, priests are advising their flock to "vote according to your conscience and love for your brethren."

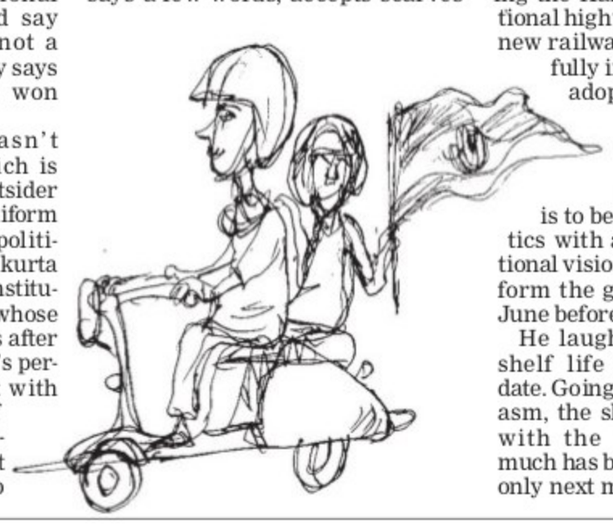
Tharoor's anti-Modi rhetoric turns the local election into national fight against divisiveness; a clever tactic. "Without trying too hard, my popularity seems to have grown," he laughs, quoting recent opinion polls. Tharoor and his BJP rival Rajeev Chandrashekar trade snarky barbs. "Rajeev's principal motivation is to be a successful businessman. That he has structured his financials to hardly pay any tax is embarrassing," Tharoor says, adding, "If a candidate of a Desh Bhakti party behaves in this manner, what sort of patriotism is this?"

All across Thiruvananthapuram, shop verandahs, temple grounds and auditoriums are swarming with Tharoor Bhakts. Men, women and children rush out of their homes to greet his convoy. Tharoor waves back animatedly. There is mutual excitement, even genuine liking. For 15 years, they have seen him on these very streets — at Thiruvallam Chitranjali junction, Vandithadam, Punchakkari and Konchiravallah; the novelty factor doesn't count. "I won my first election while I was sort of stumbling and sleepwalking through some of the minefields and pitfalls of politics," Tharoor recalls. He has crossed them unharmed, but the mines are there. Tharoor isn't taking sides, and would rather be an outsider than join the regional power game. "People would say in the beginning that I'm not a politician and a misfit. Nobody says that anymore because I've won three elections."

But the perception hasn't disappeared completely, which is ironically his strength. The outsider who abjures the white cotton uniform of the professional Congress politician and wears his trademark kurta and dhoti is trusted more by constituents than the career politicos whose theatrical intimacy disappears after the last ballot is cast. Tharoor's personal and emotional connect with voters are palpable. He gets off his campaign van at the Nelliyode Devi temple for a short prayer. The goddess seems to like him, too; an old woman blesses him. Tharoor's manner is affectionately familiar in the way he places his hand on a worker's shoulder as they chat like old acquaintances. The famous Tharoor charm is alive and well. The women of Thiruvananthapuram remain under his spell, thronging sidewalks, shops, and gates of their homes; some stirring the muggy air with bamboo fans embossed with his face. The Left candidate is Pannyan Raveendran (CPI), a long-haired septuagenarian and retired Lok Sabha MP whom Pinarayi Vijayan pulled out of his armchair where was reading either Marx or Manorama. It is ironic to see red, tricolor and saffron flags flying side by side in many places; a confederation of power seekers who seem to accommodate each other, at least outwardly.

THAROOR'S MANNER IS AFFECTIONATELY FAMILIAR IN THE WAY HE PLACES HIS HAND ON A WORKER'S SHOULDER AS THEY CHAT LIKE OLD ACQUAINTANCES. THE FAMOUS THAROOR CHARM IS ALIVE AND WELL. THE WOMEN OF TRIVANDRUM REMAIN UNDER HIS SPELL, THRONGING SIDEWALKS, SHOPS AND GATES OF THEIR HOMES

Winning Thiruvananthapuram matters to the Congress, though many khadi leaders are suspicious of Tharoor. Tharoor's anti-Modi trope makes him a national batter. "Here the candidate folds his hands, says a few words, accepts scarves and off he goes to the next pit stop. Now when I speak about bringing change in Delhi, I'm applauded, which is very unusual in situations like this. It means people are responding to my message."



His message for Kerala? "Making Kerala's voice heard nationally involves fighting for the idea of India and democratic values."

At a small junction, a young woman with a bank job has come to watch him campaign. She and her family were formerly Communists. This time they will vote for Tharoor.

"Why not the BJP?"

"They just want to build temples," she laughs.

For now, Shashi Tharoor's effort is to consecrate his career with a fourth win. "He attends weddings, funerals and even birthdays of children," comments a famous Malayalam writer wryly. Even before the elections were announced, Tharoor had issued a constituency progress report claiming success in completing the Kazhakoottam-Karode national highway bypass, establishing new railway stations, and successfully implementing the village adoption scheme. The suave Congressman explains, "State elections are two years away and I hear people say my real target is to be CM. I've come into politics with a national and international vision and I'd much rather we form the government in Delhi in June before anything else."

He laughs, saying his political shelf life is reaching its expiry date. Going by visible voter enthusiasm, the shelves are still stocked with the Tharoor brand. How much has been sold will be revealed only next month.

FACE-OFF

For Chandrasekhar, politics of performance matters most

RAJEEV Chandrasekhar hardly smiles. The BJP's candidate for the Thiruvananthapuram Lok Sabha seat is looking for a Kerala cannonball run as he winds his way through Thiruvananthapuram's pastoral expanses and sandy seaside. "Yes, I've been told that before," he says laconically.

And Chandrasekhar is trying, as if his posters sporting a wide smile speak the real truth. The Thiruvananthapuram war is not just between ideologies but a clash of personalities. The affability of Shashi Tharoor and the somewhat wooden Chandrasekhar's passionless voice are a notable contrast. When Chandrasekhar mumbles to constituents, "Please vote for me, make me win. Together let's bring prosperity to Thiruvananthapuram," it is as if his heart isn't in it.

But their rivalry is vicious. "If Tenzing Norgay claims to have climbed Mount Everest, people will believe him, unlike some random Congress politician saying so," he sneers. The billionaire elaborates that he "brings the politics of performance to the table. When I say things, I'll get it done." He echoes his slogan, "Now it'll get done." Chandrasekhar says he had achieved so much in his life, to be compared with "someone who has done so little."

Throwing such shade at Tharoor could backfire: Tharoor is the only Malayali celebrity who almost became the UN chief, authored bestsellers, and is a three-time MP from Thiruvananthapuram.

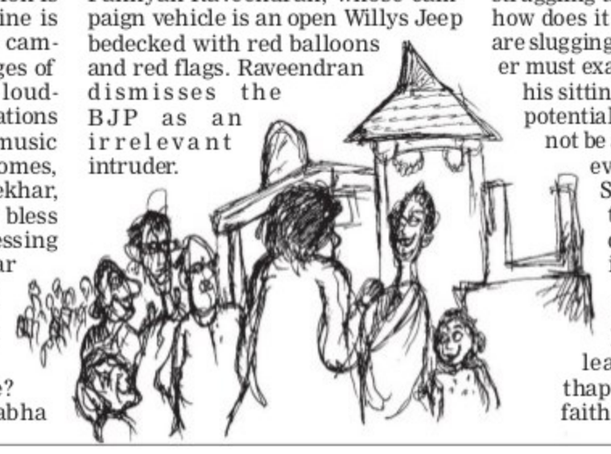
Chandrasekhar is particularly bitter about the Congress drumming up his I-T returns controversy. The habitually skeptic Malayali doubts that "such a wealthy businessman earns less than a taxi driver," according to Santosh, an auto-rickshaw driver, who scoffs at the BJP leader's affidavit claiming he earned only ₹680. Nevertheless, he plumps for BJP. "My vote is for Modi, I don't care about the candidate." Reminiscent of the 2009 Kejriwal wave in Delhi, Santosh says that auto drivers back the BJP.

Though there are days to go before we know if a rickshaw revolution is underway, the BJP poll machine is ebullient. Chandrasekhar's campaign vehicles advertise collages of him and Modi. Vehicle-born loudspeakers blare operatic exhortations that will make a Mollywood music director envious: "Here he comes, our darling Rajeev Chandrasekhar, the charioteer of development, bless him, anoint him!" For the blessing and anointment, Chandrasekhar is betting on his "reputation of 18 years of flawless, blemishless public life and of course my entrepreneurial record."

Any campaign experience? "Though it's the first Lok Sabha polls that I'm fighting for myself, I've helped many friends in the late '90s from behind the scenes." Thiruvananthapuram is not his first rodeo. The party is concentrating purely on development; Chandrasekhar promises, "My mission is to ensure the state's capital don't decline further and achieve full potential."

SANTOSH, AN AUTO-RICKSHAW DRIVER, SCOFFS AT THE BJP LEADER'S AFFIDAVIT CLAIMING HE EARNED ONLY ₹680. NEVERTHELESS, HE PLUMPS FOR BJP. "MY VOTE IS FOR MODI, I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE CANDIDATE." REMINISCENT OF THE 2009 KEJRIWAL WAVE IN DELHI, SANTOSH SAYS THAT AUTO DRIVERS BACK THE BJP.

What works for him? Chandrasekhar answers that he is part of the politics of performance and the change in India's capabilities Modi has brought. What works against him is shadowy; the Kerala idyll hiding deep faultlines of caste, religion, class and ideological conflicts. There is scarcely a ripple on the silver mirror of the Vellayani backwaters, but old hatreds lie submerged. The CPI is out in force, supporting its octogenarian contender Pannyan Raveendran, whose campaign vehicle is an open Willys Jeep bedecked with red balloons and red flags. Raveendran dismisses the BJP as an irrelevant intruder.



"Communism is an ideology that has failed across the world, how can it survive in India?" Chandrasekhar scoffs. The BJP is trying to create a "Hindu atmosphere" in Kerala, different from the patriarchal North India. Hindutva activist Lakshmi Kumari writes in *Sita Must Live*, "If Hindu Dharma is to regain its glory and make its impact on the present-day world civilisation, Sita, the spiritual power and essence in Rama's life, must also be given her place by his side. The restoration and revitalisation of Hindu dharma lie in the hands of the present-day daughters of Sita, the women of India." This is perhaps why Ayodhya hasn't had the impact the BJP expected in Kerala. A man clad in saffron shirt shouts, "Bharat Mata ki..." Neither Chandrasekhar nor the crowd responds with 'Jai's.

Most people assembled at the campaign stops are Sangh members. A man holds up his young son towards Chandrasekhar, who pats him on the head and gives a rare smile and jokes to the boy to vote for him. Like in the Congress, there is discontent in the state Parivar — not between factions, but against an 'outsider' to Thiruvananthapuram. Chandrasekhar protests, "When the normal person is struggling to improve his family's lot, how does it matter if two candidates are slugging it out?" He insists the voter must examine the performance of his sitting MP and his challenger's potential. "Peoples' suffering cannot be addressed with letters. To every question I raise, Shashi replies he has written three letters. But I don't rest till the problem is solved."

Chandrasekhar certainly isn't resting. He has miles to go before he leaps, and Thiruvananthapuram to take the leap of faith with him.

NANDED

After dismal turnout in phase-1, Modi appeals to people to vote

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

AFTER a significant decline in voter turnout in the first phase of Lok Sabha elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday appealed to people to come out and vote for the parties they support.

"It is true that there are issues like marriages and agriculture work, but despite all odds, people should come out and cast their vote. We should see the soldier who, irrespective of the weather, stands at the border for our security. He is there during the rainy season, snowfall, and heat; he always stands for the country," Modi said at an election rally in Nanded, Maharashtra.

"Voters should not think that they are doing any favour, rather they are ensuring a good future. There should be bumper voting. Workers of parties may feel that they are losing so why should they work, but they should not get discouraged. They will get an opportunity tomorrow or day after tomorrow, if not today. They should not sit at home. Though they are losing elections, they should motivate voters to vote," Modi said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with senior leader Ashok Chavan during an election campaign in support of NDA candidates in Maharashtra's Nanded on Saturday | PTI

He said the voting percentage should be high because of its impact and to make the world talk about it. "Across the world, the voting percentage is always abysmal, while in India the voting percentage is always high. We should show the world, we should vote to strengthen democracy," Modi said, claiming that in the first phase the NDA got a big chunk of votes.

Modi criticised the INDIA bloc, saying they are fighting against each other in many states while putting out a united front. "They are making allegations against each other. If they cannot trust each other, why should people trust them? INDI Alliance is not getting candidates and even their leaders are not going to campaign for their candidates," he said.

The PM said Shehzada (Rahul Gandhi) is afraid of losing the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat, and hence, after April 26, there is plan to get another safe seat for him. "Earlier, he ran away from Amethi and now he will run away from Wayanad also," Modi said.

ELECTION2024

Two Punjab Cong leaders join BJP

Two Punjab Congress leaders — its national secretary Tajinder Pal Singh Bittu and Karamjit Kaur Chaudhary, the wife of late Congress veteran Santokh Singh Chaudhary — joined the BJP on Saturday. Bittu quit from Congress hours before joining the BJP. Chaudhary had unsuccessfully fought LS bypoll in Jalandhar last year after her husband's death.

Cong's Surat candidate's papers invalidated

Congress' Surat candidate Nilesh Kumbhani's nomination was invalidated on Saturday after three of his proposers — Ramesh Palara, Jagdish Savaliya and Dhruvin Dhameliya — claimed in an affidavit to the district election officer that they had not signed his form. The DEO has sought clarification from Kumbhani on the issue and granted him time till 11 am on Sunday before deciding the future course of action on his nomination. Incidentally, the sole proposer for Suresh Padsala, Congress' substitute candidate from Surat, has also denied that he signed the form, prompting Gujarat Congress leader Shaktisinh Gohil to allege that it was the handiwork of the ruling BJP.

SP's Maharashtra MLA steps down

Samajwadi Party MLA Rais Shaikh on Saturday said he has resigned as a member of the Maharashtra legislative assembly, noting that concerns raised by him about the issues related to the party organisation have not been resolved by the state leadership. Shaikh represents the Bhiwandi (East) constituency in Thane district.

Rahul promises 'first job guarantee' for graduates

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi, addressing an election rally in Bihar's Bhagalpur with RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Saturday, asserted that the BJP's seat tally in the ongoing parliamentary elections would not cross 150-mark.

Seeking votes for Congress's Bhagalpur candidate Ajit Sharma, Gandhi said that BJP could make any claim, but the reality was something else. "BJP will not be able to get more than 150 seats in the election," he said.

The fight for Bhagalpur got tougher with a former RJD MP from the seat, Bulo Mandal, joining Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD (U) recently. Mandal resigned from the RJD after Bhagalpur went to JD(U) under the seat-sharing deal.

Rahul Gandhi and Tejashwi Yadav at an election rally in Bhagalpur on Saturday | PTI

Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) chief Mukesh Sahani also addressed the gathering. Sahni's VIP has returned to the Grand Alliance recently and is contesting election on three seats on RJD's symbols.

Addressing the rally, Gandhi said this election is being contested to save the Constitution of the country and accused the BJP and the RSS of making an attempt to abolish it. "If the Constitution is abolished, OBCs, EBCs and Dalits will not get reservation," he said.

Accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of turning the country into a "centre of unemployment," Gandhi said that if the INDIA bloc is voted to power, it will ensure a "first job guarantee" to all graduates and diploma degree holders.

He added that currently, the wealth of 22 people was equal to that possessed by 70 crore people of the country, as the PM has waived loans of the former worth ₹16 lakh crore. With that amount, farmers' loans could have been waived 25 times, Gandhi said.

Solitude is the profoundest fact of the human condition. Man is the only being who knows he is alone, and the only one who seeks out another

Octavio Paz

EARTH DAY: WARS, PLASTICS, NOTIONS AND NON SEQUITURS

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of *The Gated Republic*, *Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution*, and *Accidental India*
(shankkar.aiyar@gmail.com)

THIS Monday, the world will observe Earth Day for the 55th time. In 1971, the then UN Secretary General U Thant unveiled the idea, observing, "An earth day has suddenly become necessary to remind us of the fact that our small planet is perishable." In the five decades since, a number of calendar events—about a spectrum of concerns—have been unveiled. At last count, there were over 20 listed environment 'days' underlining the need to preserve the planet's equilibrium. The planet is no less a precarious state than it was then, and is just as perishable.

There is little to suggest that 55 Earth Days or 28 COP (Conference of Parties) meetings on climate change have engineered or even influenced human behaviour. The emission of greenhouse gases is at a record high and IPCC reports signal that the resultant decline is irreversible. Last year was the hottest since records were first tabulated in 1850. The first 100 days of the year notched new highs in new geographies and February was deemed the warmest in recorded history. India is facing one of its worst heat waves, its cities are thirsting for water and ground water levels are worrying politicians and economists. World over, glaciers are receding in kilometres. The million sq km retreat of ice levels in the Arctic and the Antarctic regions represent the existential threat we face.

The planet is unmistakably trapped amid notions and non sequiturs—between vague conceptions about what must be done and competing conflicts in intent and action. Indeed, the last Global Stocktaking revealed that the world is scarcely close to achieving the goals set out in Paris. For three decades, heads of nations have debated the balance between fuelling growth and trimming emissions with little progress—the challenge of nudging nations away from problematic to preferable paradigms is daunted by politics and economics. As John Maynard Keynes once observed, the difficulty lies not in developing new ways, but in escaping old ones.

The theme for Earth Day 55 is Planet v Plastics. How has the world fared? The data is mind-numbing. Consider single-use plastics. The UNEP estimates that around the world, a million plastic bottles are bought every minute and five trillion plastic bags are used every year. Plastics are now visible markers in the Anthropocene, the current geological era. The havoc wreaked by microplastics on natural habitats is well documented—they are now found to be ingested and inhaled by humans, too. A study by Ocean Conservancy and University of Toronto found microplastic particles in 88 percent of protein in animal sources and plant-based alternatives and that highly-processed products contained the most microplastics per gram. The scourge has now reached the womb and is affecting the yet to be born. Research by a team at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences reported finding microplastics in all 62 of the placenta samples tested.

There is the spectrum of debatable issues during times of peace and then there is the lethal cost and consequences of inaction to end conflicts. In 1971, UN Secretary General Thant hoped "humanity will be united when the common dangers we all face, the armaments race and its inherent risks of obliterating all life on earth". Those hopes have been dashed beyond recognition as wars rage across the globe. The battle to protect the planet from perishing has been haunted by wars as the UN has been rendered a mute spectator.

Just take the two wars—in Europe between Russia and Ukraine since 2022, and in the Middle East between Israel and Hamas, and now Iran. The people and the planet are paying the price of inattention. There is the tragic loss of lives—estimates vary by source—and then there is the long-term damage to environment. The untrammelled use of weaponry—munitions, rockets, drones and missiles—has defied sense and sensibility. Ukraine says Russia has fired over 8,000 missiles and over 4,600 drones; in the war in Gaza, Israel is estimated to have used over 25,000 tonnes of explosives.

The planet suffers both in the production and use of weaponry. Take missiles—the production and use of these projectiles causes significant emission of greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide and hydrofluorocarbons. A recent study by scientists at the Conflict and Environment Observatory has estimated, "The total military carbon footprint is approximately 5.5 percent of global emissions. If the world's militaries were a country, this figure would mean they have the fourth largest national carbon footprint in the world." Between the first COP meet in Berlin and COP 28 in Dubai, military expenditure across the world has spiralled from around $1.2 trillion to over $2.2 trillion, and revenues of the top 100 companies in the arms industry totalled $597 billion.

The cause of climate change demands that nations come together as Thant had hoped. The fact is geopolitics is thwarting cooperation and resolution. The unravelling of the rule-based world order extends conflicts beyond the theatre of war. Combating climate change costs money, and inflationary geopolitics—the high cost of capital, the adoption of industrial policy and rising protectionism—haunts the cause of planet protection. As the world observes Earth Day, it is useful to remember that the cause of the planet is perishing by the minute.

FOR CONGRESS, MINIMUM IS MAXIMUM NOW

POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA
prabhuchawla@newindianexpress.com
Follow him on X @PrabhuChawla

"All you need in this life is ignorance and confidence, and then success is sure."

— Mark Twain

TWAIN should know. He was a professional gambler on a Mississippi steamboat he captained, and tried to invent a children's game which he was confident would make him rich. The 139-year-old Congress is still a children's game—of two siblings who claimed their superiority with the supreme confidence that only true ignorance can sustain. This genetic flaw in the party's political DNA has caused a mutation in its legacy and stature, thanks to a Triple Gandhi Whammy.

Now, the Grand Old Party sports a new philosophy: minimum is the new maximum. Its new electoral algorithm is 'fighting for less with confidence and score a better strike rate'. For the first time, the Congress is fielding less than 330 candidates for the Lok Sabha. Has the party conceded its inability to win a majority on its own in this election? Although the first round of filing affidavits ended last week, the Congress is yet to announce all its candidates despite having released 20-odd lists. Its new strategy of naming candidates in easy, politically correct tranches stems from the fact that the party has got the memo: it is no more a pan-India player.

Today, its genome has been corrupted by dynasty, defeats, defections and denial. The consequence is a talent famine, and organisational paralysis and ideological infirmity. Until a few decades ago, there were more than 25 aspirants per Lok Sabha seat who wanted a place on the Congress list. Now it cannot find even one winnable individual in 200-plus constituencies. It is incredibly ignorant of the deadly depletion of its social and political equity.

The puzzle is its cockiness about its future. While dissing Narendra Modi's "*Achcche Din*" slogan, the shrinking Congress cabal at the top is expecting '*achchhe din*' for itself by clinging to their faithful fiefdoms. With allies as crutches, the party is seeking redemption somewhere along INDIA's tenuous and ideologically vulnerable journey. The reason it vacated space for its allies in large states like UP, Bihar and Maharashtra stems from compulsion, not compassion. The copycat has been belled; the party has copied the Left's formula of liplocking with likeminded parties to retain its numerical pertinence and winning seats it otherwise wouldn't have fighting solo. The Congress depends on Akhilesh Yadav, Tejashwi Yadav, MK Stalin, Arvind Kejriwal et al to retain its minimum electoral base. However, the party hasn't been too gracious towards its buddies in other Northern states and Karnataka. Its target: achieve a better strike rate even if vote share dips.

The Congress leadership hasn't lost its illusion of invincibility: it claims to have made tangible concessions to its local besties because it has a bigger nationwide market share. It is yet to figure that it exists only in name and the game, and remains an undesirable voter option in many states. It is left with few generals and even fewer soldiers in many states. The plausible and possible justification for the Congress to fight for fewer seats in 2024 could be 'No charismatic *neta*, *nara* and *niti*'. For the past four decades, the party leadership manufacturing system has been decaying; not one marketable leader who can connect successfully with an inclusive India made of numerous castes, beliefs and social communities has surfaced. Indira Gandhi converted her party into a rainbow social coalition of Christians, Dalits, Adivasis, minorities, upper castes and classes. After her, not Rajiv, not Sonia or Rahul could restore its sheen.

Indira's assassination generated a sweeping sympathy wave for Rajiv in 1984 that gave the Congress a record 400-plus seats in the Lok Sabha. But Rajiv was the first Gandhi who couldn't get a second consecutive mandate. In 1989, the Congress put up 510 candidates, of whom only 197 reached the Lok Sabha: a number not even half of what it had won in the previous elections. Rajiv died brutally and terribly, and the Congress lost the Gandhi Midas touch. It failed to win an absolutely majority in 1991. Of the 505 candidates fielded, only 244 made it. P V Narasimha Rao cobbled together a majority and ran a minority government for a full term—a first in modern Indian history.

But the Congress was humiliated in 1996. Of the 529 candidates, only 140 won. Rao was unceremoniously ousted as Congress president and replaced by Gandhi faithful Sitaram Kesri who led the party to a disastrous debacle in 1998 with the Congress scoring only 141 seats. The Gandhi *parivar* threw him out, homespun cap and all. Sonia Gandhi became party president. The Congress hoped that fortune would smile again with a Gandhi at the helm. But it was trashed in 1999 when only 114 contestants out of 453 won. However, Sonia's hidden talent as a coalition metallurgist who could forge incompatible elements into the semblance of a shape led to the ouster of the Vajpayee-led NDA government. In 2004, the Congress reduced its candidates to 417; of them 145 won. It performed well in 2009 under the stewardship of Manmohan Singh, who was pitted against the redoubtable L K Advani. Of 440 Congress candidates, 206 crossed the finish line.

But since then, the party has been going downhill, losing senior leaders in most states. The arrival of a determined, focused and aggressive Modi made life miserable for both the party and the Gandhis. In 2014, the GOP's Lok Sabha presence shrank to less than 50 seats, and it lost the Leader of the Opposition status. In 2019, under Rahul, who was only genetically entitled to be party president, the tally marginally rose from 44 to 52. Even after 20 years in politics, Gandhi Jr is yet to acquire acceptability nationally and in his own party. His fan boys derive hope from the fact that his popularity ratings are up after two successful political yatras. The gap between him and Modi has narrowed a wee bit, but is still too wide for a swing at the prime minister.

It is obvious the Congress isn't fighting this election to make magic, since it lacks the manpower, muscle power and money moxie. The government has frozen its accounts. Its committed donors are vanishing faster than its leaders. Choice 2024 is just an exercise to win a small battle by scoring more hits in order to claim the crown in a later war. Retaining its present score in parliament can still be claimed a success. The party waxes pompously about saving democracy. Instead, its pathetic performance has weakened democracy, which today lacks even a semblance of a credible opposition. It is for the Congress to correct the imbalance. For the first time in its political life, it can refuse to be inspired by ignorance. It can be confident about its ground reality by accepting its flaws. Then success would be sure. Or maybe, barely sure.

WHY WE MUST SEE RED ON COLOURISM

OPINION

GEETHA RAVICHANDRAN
Former bureaucrat and author, most recently of *The Spell of the Rain Tree*

THERE was a recent report of a prominent classical dancer declaring that a male colleague should not be dancing, as he was black as a crow. This, according to her, was not aesthetically pleasing. The fact that she belonged to a region where the natural tone of the skin is in the darker shades made her comment even more outrageous. Another tragic report was that of a father in Vijayawada poisoning his 18-month-old daughter as she was dark-skinned.

There is a deep-rooted prejudice in our country against dark skin. This has given rise to a flourishing and exploitative cosmetic industry. From infamous chemical bleaches and fairness creams to the glutathione promise, there is an endeavour to sell an illusory standard of beauty as being light-skinned. I am struck by the irony that the cosmetic industry is making its profits by changing dark to light when it's skin, and white to black when it's hair. It thrives on people unhappy with their appearance. A look at matrimonial ads, the lack of acceptance of dark-skinned models in the fashion industry or as female leads in the film industry shows the extent of bias. This is surprising in a country where we worship the dark-skinned Krishna and Draupadi, the dusky wife of the Pandavas, is celebrated for her beauty and valour.

The history of colourism in India is often linked to caste. There is a theory that the light-skinned invaders subjugated the dark-skinned indigenous population and introduced the Varna system based on colour. Caste is a weapon to oppress certain socio-economic groups. However, the intermingling of the races over the centuries has created a blended palette in our country.

The global prevalence of colourism among non-white races points to colonialism as a major cause for this malaise. Colonialism projected the image of a white-skinned master lording over dark-skinned natives, with the attendant prejudice and social discrimination gaining traction. Stereotypes and caricatures deepened the social divide. The British boasted of their racial superiority and 'the white man's burden'. Exclusive access to institutions and clubs, and the emergence of white towns excluding locals underlined this sense of privilege. In post-independence India, the white skin became something of an aspirational symbol.

Skin whitening products are big business worldwide. A WHO study has estimated the size of the global skin-whitening industry at $31. 2 billion in 2024. In India, 50 percent of the skin care industry comprises skin-lightening products, which is around $500 million annually. For many users, chiefly women, turning light-skinned is touted as a passport to privilege. However, the ingredients in these products have come under scrutiny for potential adverse effects. Mercury can cause damage to the kidneys and hydroquinone is identified as a carcinogen. Many skin whiteners contain melanin blockers, which is advertised as if it's a natural and wholesome solution. Cosmetic companies indulge in gaslighting customers by referring to sun exposure as a disaster for the skin. The need for spending adequate time in the sun for producing vitamin D and kickstarting metabolism is overlooked.

The deep-rooted prejudice in our country against dark skin sustains an exploitative cosmetic industry. It makes profit by changing dark skin to light and white hair to black. Thankfully, the movement against colourism is gaining ground

The rebranding of a face cream by a multinational by a name change is an outstanding example of marketing duplicity. This was a response to the protest that the brand was perpetrating unhealthy biases. The ingredients in the tube have not changed and exploitation of vulnerabilities to increase profits still continues to be the game. There is, thankfully, a growing awareness against colourism both in India and other countries. Counter-movements like Dark is Beautiful are beginning to have an impact. But the fact is colourism is deeply embedded in India's social fabric. This discrimination is evident when jobs involve visibility, like in entertainment and advertising. However, the growing awareness that success is no longer linked to skin colour, unlike what it was in the colonial past, is a positive change.

It is necessary to educate children at homes and schools against colourism, bullying and body shaming. There is an interesting story worth retelling in this context. Sage Ashtavakra was born with eight deformities. Once when he entered the court of King Janaka, his contorted appearance was greeted with derisive laughter. Ashtavakra joined in and laughed the loudest. A stunned Janaka asked him why. Ashtavakra replied that while he came expecting to meet learned men, he realised he was in the midst of those who could not see beyond the skin. Janaka and his courtiers at once bowed to the sage. Ashtavakra's courage holds a valuable lesson. To be bound by appearances and opinions of others is a folly. There are sufficient red flags on the damage that perverse societal attitudes can inflict. It is important to teach children that standards of beauty may change, but basic human values like acceptance of others will never go out of fashion. It is essential that everyone learns to be comfortable in their own skin.

(ravichandran.geetha@gmail.com)

QUOTE CORNER

I swear as a former British ambassador and a 22-year career diplomat: almost every US or British Embassy hosts a CIA or MI6 station. All house military personnel. Many service special forces. That the Iranian diplomatic premises were qualitatively different is rubbish.

Craig Murray, former British ambassador, reacting to Israel's explanation of its bombing of an Iranian consulate in Syria linking it to the presence of Iranian military leaders

I knew they had fabricated a false narrative, because I know all of the cases that they cherry-picked their text fragments from. They stitched together excerpts.

Estela Aranha, former secretary of digital rights in the Brazilian justice ministry, on Elon Musk and some far right operatives' effort to spread fake news about a Brazilian judge

Go out there and give your best. I try to relay messages from wherever I am on the field. You don't want to give too many messages.

Jasprit Bumrah, on his on-field role for Mumbai Indians, whose new captain Hardik Pandya has been booed by the home crowd after taking over from Rohit Sharma

MAILBAG

WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

EVM ambiguity

Ref: *Onus lies with EC to prove EVM reliability* (Apr 20). We have a lengthy Constitution that guarantees the due process of law. The purpose of creating the constitutional body of the Election Commission was to provide free and fair elections, so that we can govern ourselves. We are no longer under colonial reign, where people didn't have the right to express opinions freely. As responsible constitutional bodies, the EC and Supreme Court should solve this ambiguity over voting machines.

K Palaniswami, Salem

Compulsory voting

Ref: *69.46% TN voters ink fingers* (Apr 20). It is heartening to read that a group of tribals walked more than 10 km after skipping breakfast to vote near Udumalpet in Tamil Nadu. At the same time, voters in urban areas are still hesitant. A law should be enacted for compulsory voting. Those who fail to vote should be warned the first time and punished the second time, as is done in some countries.

P Victor Selvaraj, Palayamkottai

Political rhetoric

It's good to note that despite the scorching heat the first phase of elections has finished with a 60 percent turnout. The majority are keeping their faith in democracy. They don't seem to give much priority to the rhetoric of politicos. But the standard of political exchanges is on a slippery slope. In AP, when the chief minister was injured, opposition leaders took no time to ridicule the incident rather than condemn it. The statesmanship shown by leaders can pave the way for a better society.

D V G Sankara Rao, Vizianagaram

Unrelated remark

Narendra Modi's remark while campaigning in Madhya Pradesh—that Pakistan, a supplier of *aatank* (terror), is now struggling for *ata* (wheat)—is ridiculous. It is not related to the elections. It only reveals a hunger for cheap publicity and political gain in attracting the majority community's voters towards the BJP for the ongoing elections.

Syed Amjad Ali, Secunderabad

Sub-par institutes

On the column expressing concerns about UGC's new guidelines for PhD admission, I wonder what the author thinks about the substandard private universities that hold fake exams and admit students to earn huge fees even in science subjects. The theses are at times written by agents; supervisors are hired for paltry sums. I think the test proposed by UGC will at least control such malpractice.

Sunil Dutta Purohit, email

Double threat

Ref: *Breast cancer deaths to double by 2040, says Lancet* (Apr 20). The projection of doubled breast cancer deaths by 2040 necessitates immediate government action, including the prohibition of alcohol sales. Supporting initiatives like the Global Breast Cancer Initiative would be crucial. Empowering women to prioritise self-care and screenings is essential. Let us raise awareness and act decisively to prevent this crisis.

Dr V Parameswari, Tiruchirappalli

Internecine fight

It is rather interesting that the CPM and the Congress, which are allies in other states, are acting like sworn enemies in Kerala. Pinarayi Vijayan has taken exception to Rahul Gandhi's jibe that the CPM is playing the role of BJP's B team. Neither seems embarrassed that this dual stance can cause harm to their electoral prospects.

K R Jayaprakash Rao, Mysuru

H5N1 menace

The World Health Organization has expressed deep concern regarding the increasing transmission of H5N1 bird flu to other species, including humans. The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare should be cautious. Measures need to be taken to prevent human transmission of infections before an epidemic takes shape.

Nabnit Panigrahi, Rayagada

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**

Published by **R K Jhunjhunwala** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099.
Bengaluru. Vol. 25, No. 16 RNI Reg. No. KARENG\2000\03040. Phone: 080-22866893. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

POSTS OF THE DAY

Mallikarjun Kharge @kharge
Unbridled inflation has stolen people's money. What kind of "good days" are these, in which the people ate dry bread...? The situation will change, now it is Congress's turn!

Jairam Ramesh @Jairam_Ramesh
It was odd that @elonmusk was coming all the way to India to meet an outgoing PM. He too has now read the writing on the wall and decided to put off his visit.

Yashwant Sinha @YashwantSinha
The Modi wave in these elections exists only in the Godi media. BJP has already badly lost the first round.

7-phase poll a plan to give BJP campaign advantage: Mamata

SULAGNA SENGUPTA @Kolkata

WEST Bengal Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** on Saturday alleged that the Election Commission chalked out seven-phase polls to enable Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his cabinet colleagues to carry out extensive campaigning using the nation's resources.

Addressing a public meeting in Malda district, Banerjee said polls have been scheduled from April 19 to June 1 so that Modi and his cabinet colleagues can travel on special planes across the country before every phase to "overwhelm the Opposition."

"Elections used to be over by May but this year, it has been extended till June 1 so the PM can visit various places on military planes, while we are made to arrange for our own transport, including helicopters, which are also being booked by BJP leaders so that we get little space," she alleged.

"People are inconvenienced by the scorching heat but Modi is unperturbed as they (BJP leaders) are campaigning in VVIP comfort with all facilities at hand," she added.

Banerjee alleged that though the Union council of ministers is a caretaker cabinet after the announcement of elections and the EC is in charge of running the administrative machinery, the poll body is "toeing the line dictated by Modi and his party colleagues."

Attacking the BJP and Congress MPs from West Bengal, Banerjee alleged that none of them took up the state's cause regarding the release of MGNREGA funds or building houses for the poor under PM Awas Yojana. "Our (TMC) MPs were manhandled and arrested when they went to Delhi in November last year to demand the release of MGNREGA funds," she said.

Banerjee accused CPM and Congress of bolstering the BJP in the state and urged people not to cast votes for any non-TMC candidate.

Lalu's daughter locked in grim battle against Rudy

In JP's Saran, it's 'freedom from corruption' vs 'dictatorial politics'

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@ Saran(Bihar)

Rajiv Pratap Rudy

Rohini Acharya

AMID soaring mercury, the political temperature in Bihar's Saran Lok Sabha seat, the place of Bharat Ratna awardee Loknayak Jay Prakash Narayan who propounded Total Revolution, is going up. BJP MP **Rajiv Pratap Rudy**, 62, and **Rohini Acharya**, 44, a daughter of RJD patriarch Lalu Prasad Yadav, are fighting it out in the constituency that will go to polls on May 20.

Rudy, who was a pilot, is seeking another term from the seat, reiterating his party's commitment to a "total freedom from corruption" in the country. Rohini, an MBBS doctor, says she will launch a "total revolution against dictatorial politics" of the ruling BJP if she is elected. PM Narendra Modi and RJD chief Lalu Prasad cast a shadow on the poll battle. "We will vote for the BJP candidate only because we think that the country needs Modi. Otherwise, the MP goes beyond our reach after he wins," said Pramod Singh, 45, a pharmacist at Sonepur.

Many voters in rural areas said they are not familiar with Rohani but would like to vote for her as she is the daughter of Lalu, who they said has given voice to the downtrodden and OBC people in the state.

"She is an inspiration to us because of her dedication towards her parents. She didn't think of her life and donated her one kidney to save her father. It was praised by BJP leaders also. So, we would like to see her as our new-generation representative in the LS," said Neelima Kumar, pursuing MA first year from JP University.

Near Sheetalpur, three youths from an upper caste said they will vote for the better candidate. "Rudy as a pilot flew with passengers while Rohini is a doctor who knows the importance of the health sector. Though she is making her debut in parliamentary politics, she stands a chance. Her father would certainly be her mentor in politics," said Nanhe Yadav, a BA running a cyber cafe. Saran constituency has nearly 1,268,338 electors in its six assembly segments -- Madhaura, Chapra, Garkha, Amnaur, Parsa and Sonepur. Rudy had defeated RJD candidate Chandrika Rai, a relative of Lalu, in 2019. In 2014, Rudy had defeated Rohini's mother and former CM Rabri Devi.

"Rudy will not be defeated by Rohini who is pining hope to win riding on sympathy for donating her kidney to her father. Has she donated her kidney to any poor person?" asked Munna Rajput from Amnaur.

Amid Yadav, a teacher at Amnaur, said, "Rohini is not only a daughter of Lalu but has emerged a role model of girls in particular and youth in general. She will get votes from all castes and Muslim community."

SALMAN KHAN

A FRIGHTFUL DRAMA IN THE REAL WORLD

SHREYAS PANDE

Mandar Pardikar

LIFE is stranger than fiction, it seems. Salman Khan played a bodyguard in a 2011 film of the same name. He was assigned the job of defending Kareena Kapoor's life in the film, who is a target, courtesy political disagreements. Khan braves bullets and swords to save her. In real-life now, he has become a target himself. The morning of April 14 opened with mortal danger for the actor. Mounted on a bike, two individuals fired some bullets on the walls of his residence, Galaxy Apartments, in Mumbai, before escaping. The attack is believed to have been spearheaded by the members of the dreaded Lawrence Bishnoi gang that is supposedly seeking revenge for what the actor did in 1998.

It all began during the shoot of Sooraj Barjatya's Hum Saath-Saath Hai where Khan was accused of killing two blackbucks in the Kankani village of Rajasthan. The animal is held in great reverence by the Bishnois, a community in the state which protects and preserves the environment. For them, it is the reincarnation of their god, and hence, the poaching by Khan was held in highest disregard. So much so that during a court appearance in 2018, gangster Lawrence Bishnoi had proclaimed, "We will kill Salman Khan in Jodhpur. Everyone will know once we take action."

NEWSMAKER

Naturally, this came as a matter of great fright and panic. The threat was reiterated in the form of a letter in June 2022 in the aftermath of the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala. The letter brazenly stated, "Tera bhi Moosewala kar denge (You will meet the same fate as Moosewala)". In 2023, yet another threat found its way through an e-mail which was received by the actor's manager. All of this is happening to an actor, whose onscreen persona is that of a macho-man chasing away bad-guys with the pump of his muscles and the power of his arms.

The actor's might was last seen in Maneesh Sharma's Tiger 3, where he returned to play the much-loved titular character, jumping off buildings and emerging victorious in gunfights or hand combats. There, he was racing against time to save his country with the help of Zoya, played by Katrina Kaif, as they scampered to stop the menacing plans of Aatish Rehman, the antagonist played by Emraan Hashmi. The film fared well at the box-office and finally gave him some relief after back-to-back duds. He also starred in the action-comedy, Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan, where he combined his real-life persona and on-screen energy with his character, 'Bhaijaan', who is the quintessential saviour.

Some years ago, in the 2010s, it was Khan who pioneered the emergence of new-age hyper-masculine films in Hindi cinema, punctuated by over-the-top action scenes, raunchy dialogues and catchy songs. It was a major shift in his filmography which was, until then, filled with romantic-dramas and comedies. The decisive turn happened with Prabhudeva's Wanted (2008), where Salman played the role of Radhe, an IPS officer who is after a deadly gang. "Ek baar jo maine commitment kardi to mai khud ki bhi nahi sunta (Once I make a commitment, then I listen, not even to myself)", became the fiery punchline that marked his next innings.

Much like the courageous characters he plays, the actor's spirits remain not shaken as he left for Dubai on Friday for the launch of his fitness equipment brand, 'Being Strong'. His father, screenwriter Salim Khan, responding to the shooting later said, "They (the shooters) just want publicity; there is no need to worry." The actor will be next seen in AR Murugadoss's Sikandar. As the title suggests, all of the country will be hoping he emerges from these gloomy times, a warrior, unafraid and unaffected.

MHA launches 'Pratibimb' to help police crack down on cyber frauds

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

Tracing real location

The software also provides a map view to personnel of the law enforcement agencies and service providers to ascertain the actual locations of mobile numbers active in criminal activities. The MHA issued directions to central agencies to initiate action against identified 12 cyber criminal hotspots and asked them to narrow down for targeted actions.

AIMING to hit hard at cyber criminals and the crime hotspots, the Ministry of Home Affairs' (MHA) Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) has developed and launched a software called 'Pratibimb' to help enforcement agencies, including state police forces, to map cyber criminals in real time and destroy their network, officials said.

'Pratibimb' offers a unique advantage of projecting mobile numbers used in cybercrimes across the entire country onto a Geographic Information System (GIS) map, said officials.

The software also provides a map view to personnel of the law enforcement agencies and service providers to ascertain the actual locations of mobile numbers active in criminal activities. With the launch of 'Pratibimb', the MHA has issued directions to concerned central state agencies to initiate action against identified 12 cybercriminal hotspots and have asked them to narrow down for targeted actions.

A senior official said, "Since the software was launched last week, monitoring of these criminals, it was observed that they change their locations after raids by local police, posing a challenge as their continuous movement is not easy to track and is a time-consuming practice."

However, areas in Haryana and Jharkhand have been targeted, and large-scale operations have been conducted to apprehend cyber criminals, the officials said, adding that in one of the largest operations against cybercrime, the Haryana police have arrested 42 cyber criminals this week in Nuh, Mewat, in connection with several nationwide cyber-fraud cases. This resulted in the seizure of 50 cell phones, fake Aadhaar cards, over 90 SIM cards, cash, and ATM cards.

In another operation, I4C located fraudsters involved in the manipulation of fantasy cricket betting games. These cyber criminals manipulated live matches to benefit their fantasy teams, a difficult scheme for individual users to detect.

Warships, submarines and aircraft form part of big drill by Eastern Command

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Indian Navy conducted Exercise Poorvi Lehar on the East Coast under the Operational Control of Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command.

The Indian Navy stated, "The exercise aimed to validate procedures towards assessing the Indian Navy's preparedness to meet Maritime Security challenges in the region." It was a multi-service, multi-domain exercise.

The exercise saw the participation of Ships, Submarines, Aircraft, and Special Forces. XPOL (Exercise Poorvi Lehar) was conducted in multiple phases, including combat training in a realistic scenario during the Tactical Phase and the successful conduct of various firings during the Weapon Phase, reaffirming the Indian Navy's capability to deliver ordnance on target.

With the operation of aircraft from diverse locations, near-continuous Maritime Domain Awareness was maintained throughout the Area of Operations. In addition to the participation of assets from the Eastern Naval Command, the exercise also saw involvement from assets of the Indian Air Force, Andaman & Nicobar Command, and Coast Guard, indicating a very high degree of interoperability amongst the Services.

The Exercise provided valuable lessons to participating forces operating under realistic conditions, thereby enhancing their readiness to respond effectively to maritime challenges in the region.

The successful conclusion of XPOL 2024 "reaffirms the Indian Navy's resolve to meet growing security challenges in the maritime domain," said the Navy.

Ayush Min told to act against firm selling 'insulin'

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

HK flags 'cancer-causing' ingredient in some spices

Hong Kong's food regulatory authority found four products of popular Indian brands MDH and Everest with carcinogenic ingredients. Singapore has recalled Everest fish curry masala imported from India, citing the presence of ethylene oxide, a cancer-causing agent which raises the risk of breast cancer and lymphoma. The Centre for Food Safety, Hong Kong's food and environmental regulatory body, said it collected samples of four products under its routine food surveillance programme and found the presence of pesticide ethylene oxide, which is unsuitable for human consumption. The three MDH products are –curry powder (spice blend for Madras curry), mixed masala powder, and sambhar masala. The fourth product is Everest Fish Curry Masala.

INDIA'S drug regulator has directed the Ayush ministry to take action against a company selling a homoeopathic medicine named 'insulin,' according to an RTI reply.

In a letter to the advisor, drug policy section, Ministry of Ayush, the Drugs Controller General, Dr Rajeev Singh Raghvanshin said, "Subject matter is related to Ayush medicine system, you are requested to examine the matter and take necessary action by the provisions laid down under Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder."

The DCGI, which is also copied to the Drugs Controller, Rajasthan, said that "it is pertinent to mention that as per Rule 106 A (C) of the Drugs Rules 1945: No Homeopathic medicine containing a single ingredient shall bear a proprietary name of its label."

According to Kerala-based RTI activist Dr K V Babu, the homoeopathic tablet named 'insulin' has nothing to do with actual insulin that controls diabetes. "Patients may get confused with a homoeopathic tablet named insulin and could stop the real insulin injected through the skin into the fatty tissue. They might get confused and switch to tablets since it may seem more convenient. This will have serious consequences," he said. He said that the DCGI should address the issue of drugs under the same name being marketed under various systems of medicine.

According to Dr V Mohan, Chairman of Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF), it is dangerous to call any medicine insulin, whether it belongs to modern systems of medicine or any other system, as insulin is a hormone produced by the pancreas. "There could be people who are not literate and may be fooled into thinking insulin has now come in oral form. They may stop their insulin and try this, which can even result to death," he said.

"Insulin is only available as an injection. Oral insulins have earlier been tried in the past, but those are real insulin. Injectable insulin has so far been found effective. The drug controller of India should condemn such claims. Such medicines should be banned in order not to affect the health of people, especially children and adults with type 1 diabetes. If they stop insulin, their health and indeed their life would be in danger."

Insulin is a medication used in the treatment and management of diabetes mellitus type-1 and sometimes diabetes mellitus type-2, both of which are significant risk factors for coronary artery disease, stroke, peripheral vascular disease, and a host of other vascular conditions. According to an Indian Council of Medical Research-INDIAB, which measured the prevalence of metabolic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the country, there are an estimated 101 million people in India detected with diabetes, 136 million were found to be prediabetes and 315 million people from hypertension in 2021.

The national survey, which Dr Mohan and his institute coordinated, also said that 254 million people in India had generalised obesity, and 351 million had abdominal obesity. In addition, 213 million people had hypercholesterolaemia (high cholesterol), and 185 million had high LDL or bad cholesterol.

Away from politics, ex-foreign secy continues welfare work in Siliguri

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

FORMER Foreign Secretary and G20 Chief Coordinator, **Harsh Vardhan Shringla**, is not in the race for the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, but he continues to work on the ground in Darjeeling, Siliguri, and neighbouring areas.

"My objective is to serve the people here and help them in whatever way possible, whether it's channelizing the youth who are seeking employment or working for the welfare of the elderly. I am committed to serving the community even after retirement and reaching out to common people through the Darjeeling Welfare Society, which was established nearly a decade ago," Shringla told this newspaper.

Darjeeling and the Siliguri corridor areas are strategic development initiatives that have suffered due to gaps in centre-state coordination.

"The Siliguri corridor abuts Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and China and connects India to South East Asia and East Asia through Myanmar. So, it is of strategic significance. Besides, there is a lot that needs to be done for the local people here," he added.

The locals of Darjeeling and Siliguri have appreciated his work in the area and were hoping to see him contest in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

"The locals are very appreciative of him, especially after he organized G20 events here. He has also helped the young people get jobs in the area," Sreejana C Gurung, an educationist from Mirik said.

In a job fair organized in the area a few months back, facilitated by Shringla, nearly 270 youths were offered jobs.

Meanwhile, talking about the Siliguri corridor, Shringla said that this part of the country was in a position to benefit from PM Modi's focus on transforming the North East.

"The area is now in a position where it can leverage the conjunction of national and international initiatives. Siliguri, for instance, is where the National Highways Authority of India's Golden Quadrilateral will connect to the Asian Highway network and future BIMSTEC land connectivity initiatives," Shringla added.

The Siliguri-Bagdogra area is at a strategic location near the Nepal and Bhutan borders and fosters cross-border trade, while its fertile plains support a thriving agricultural sector.

Meanwhile, even though Shringla isn't contesting the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, there is talk of him being offered a position of significance once the electoral process is over. After all the years he has successfully served as a diplomat, it's time his services were utilised for the overall betterment of society.

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	37	24	Mumbai	35	26
Bhopal	37	24	Panaji	32	26
Jaipur	36	23	Patna	38	25
Amritsar	33	21	Lucknow	37	19
Chennai	35	28	Port Blair	32	26
Kolkata	35	26	Imphal	31	19
Srinagar	23	08	Chandigarh	35	18

PAWAR & UDDHAV FACE 'SPIN ATTACK'

Ever since the breakup in Shiv Sena and NCP, the narrative for these parties has changed

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

THEY say nothing lasts forever. This is as true of politics as anything else. Yesterday's political stalwarts like Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray today seem to be mere shadows of their earlier selves, navigating a sea of uncertainty.

This Lok Sabha election is a real test between three election managers – Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his two deputies --Ajit Pawar and Devendra Fadnavis -- against two decimated mass leaders, Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray, who are determined to fight the polls to regain their lost glory.

The battleground is ready for the high-voltage elections that will elect 48 Lok Sabha MPs – the highest after Uttar Pradesh. On the one side are skilled poll managers like Chief Minister Shinde and two deputies, while on the other, two mass leaders -- the 84-year-old Maratha strongman Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray are fighting the survival battle after witnessing a major vertical split in their parties.

"Though Sharad Pawar was the face of the NCP, the groundwork from identifying the local candidates, providing them resources and oiling the party machinery was carried out by one of the most reliable partymen and nephew Ajit Pawar. While senior Pawar used to handle only the key issues, his nephew was one main contact for the lower rung of the party leaders and workers," said a person close to the Pawar family. It is said that Sharad Pawar had so much faith in Ajit that he trusted his managerial skills much more than his daughter, Supriya Sule, when choosing candidates. Therefore, ignoring his major blunders and gaffes, sr Pawar continued to elevate his position in the party and the government.

"The proverbial phrase that blood is extra thick in the Pawar family has changed. The nephew has not only highjacked the party but is trying to end the politics of his 84-year-old uncle by fielding his spouse, Sunetra Pawar, against his cousin sister, Supriya Sule, and fiercely fighting this legacy and political battle with the help of BJP, particularly Devendra Fadnavis in Baramati," said a political observer.

Sharad Pawar, who understands politics like the back of his hand, anticipated the danger to his daughter Supriya Sule's future, and started the corner meetings of villagers in Baramati Lok Sabha to protect his bastion that he developed in the 1970s.

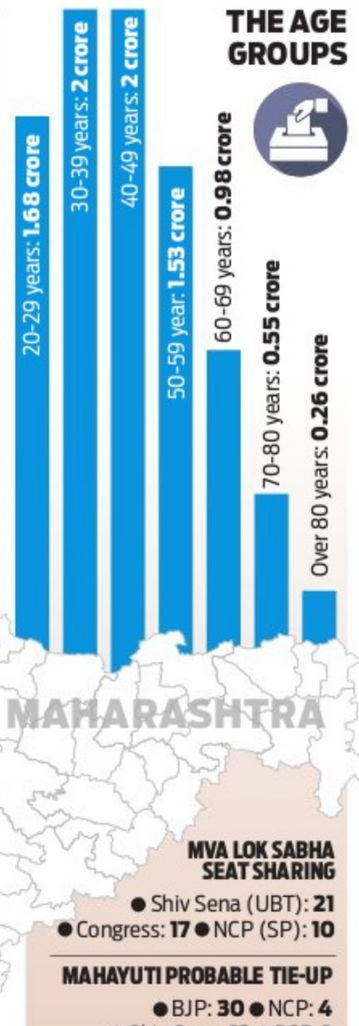
"Supriya Sule is also scouting in scorching summer, meeting the locals and seeking support for her father and herself in this prestigious battle against her cousin. Several middle-aged people in Baramati benefited from the decisions of Ajit Pawar directly, even though Sharad Pawar empowered him. Ajit Pawar was just a facilitator but now takes credit for many things in Baramati. But the elderlies and the youth are extending support to senior Pawar vowing to remain loyal in times of crisis," said a senior journalist from Baramati.

Interestingly, DCM Fadnavis, with his statesmanship, is doing the fire-fighting and bolstering job for his friend Ajit Pawar and his spouse Sunetra Pawar in this final political battle against Sharad Pawar. Keeping the 2014 Lok Sabha's close elections in mind, where Supriya Sule won the polls by a slender margin against Rashtriya Samaj Paksha candidate Mahadev Jankar, Sharad Pawar is ensuring that his daughter doesn't not face a similar situation.

Congress MLA Sanjay Jagtap from Purandhar said that this time, the public perception favours MVA. He said the people are upset with the manner Uddhav Thackeray was forced to step down as chief minister despite the Shiv Sena being founded by his father, the late Balasaheb Thackeray. Similarly, Sharad Pawar founded NCP has also been snatched by his nephew Ajit Pawar.

"The people who are with the RSS-BJP are not happy with the inductions of NCP Ajit Pawar and Congress leader Ashok Chavan. PM Narendra Modi raised the corruption of the Pawar's ~70,000 crore irrigations scam and Chavan's Adarsh housing scam ahead of the Lok Sabha elections," he said.

Interestingly, BJP, in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha and state assembly elections, hammered its election campaign around these two leaders only. Pawar and Chavan were portrayed as the epitome of corruption in Maharashtra, and they are with the BJP now. So, hard-core workers of the RSS and BJP are finding it hard to defend these corrupt leaders.



RAJASTHAN

Cong against development, stalled canal project, says Shah

RAJESH ASNANI & NAMITA BAJPAI @ Jaipur/Mathura

AT a rally in Rajasthan's Kota, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday sharply criticized the Congress, branding it as anti-development.

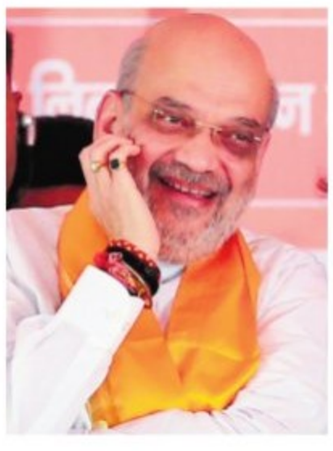
Shah was in the town to garner support for Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. "Had the electorate voted for Congress in 2019, Kota would have been a stronghold for the Popular Front of India (PFI), a banned Islamic outfit. However, due to our support for Prime Minister Modi, the PFI influence has been eradicated," said Shah.

He accused the former Ashok Gehlot-led government of hindering the state's development. "The Gehlot government halted the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) for five years. In contrast, the Bhajan Lal administration advanced the ERCP work within just three months. PM Modi is committed to ensuring water in every village through the ERCP," said the minister.

He expressed confidence in the BJP sweeping all seats. "All 12 seats contested in the state will be won by Narendra Modi," Shah said. Om Birla has won from Kota twice with a margin of over two lakh votes. He faces Congress' Pahlad Gunjal, who recently switched from BJP to Congress. "Every vote cast for Om Birla in Kota-Bundi directly supports Modi ji," he added.

Earlier, Shah attended a Vijay Sankalp Mahasabha in Bhilwara to support BJP's Damodar Agarwal. "Sonia Gandhi aims to make her son Rahul Gandhi the PM, while Modi strives to elevate the nation. Congress politicized Ram Lalla for vote banks, neglecting the true sentiment of the people," he said.

Addressing another rally in Mathura in support for party candidate Hema Malini for a third term, Shah said the Congress-SP combined was wiped out in the first phase. The voting in Saharanpur, Bijnor, Kairana, Muzaffarnagar, Nagina, Moradabad, Rampur and Pilibhit seats took place on Friday.



Cong failed to protect national security: Yogi

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath conducted a roadshow supporting BJP's CP Joshi from Chittorgarh Lok Sabha constituency. Yogi criticized Congress, saying, "During their tenure, terrorists were pampered with biryani. They even questioned Lord Ram's existence. Those disrespecting faith and failing to bolster national security shouldn't govern." He also expressed confidence in BJP's victory.

'Regional parties a key factor in many states'

PUNJAB is headed for a four-cornered poll battle involving AAP, Congress, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and Congress, following the parties' failures to forge an INDIA bloc or BJP-SAD alliance. Of the two alliances, the latter broke down as SAD, headed by **Sukhbir Singh Badal**, insisted on its principles, which meant the release of some Sikh prisoners (bandi Singhs) who have served their jail terms and the demands of farmers and farm labourers, said Sukhbir in an interview with **Harpreet Bajwa**. Excerpts::

SAD has decided to go it alone this polls after 1996. Why couldn't the SAD-BJP alliance take place?

For us, our principles are most important. We cannot compromise on our principles and core issues. This is why we raised issues like according the MSP a legal sanctity, and honouring all promises made to farmers during the farmer agitation, releasing Sikh detainees who have been jailed for as many as 28 years even after completing their life terms, and stopping interference in the religious affairs and institutions of the Sikh Panth. We will perform well in the polls.

What is the future of regional parties?

These parties are getting traction across the country. Regional parties will be the deciding factor in many states. This is because of the realization that these parties can serve the people's aspirations best. A similar feeling prevails in Punjab.

What's your take on the electoral bonds?

The electoral bond list has revealed everything. What is the problem in giving cheques to parties in a transparent manner? Yes, something is fishy when a company with a profit of Rs 250-crore donates ₹ 1,300 crore in electoral bonds.

The INDIA bloc accuses the BJP of trying to misuse the Central agencies...

I strongly believe no government should use government agencies as a political tool. This affects the credibility of a government. The ED appears to have become a weapon. In a democracy, you can't win hearts with dictatorship.

Why didn't your party join the INDIA bloc?

Absolutely no question of doing that. The Congress, which heads the INDIA alliance, is responsible not only for attacking Sri Darbar Sahib (Golden Temple) with tanks and mortars, but is also responsible for the genocide of Sikhs in 1984. The Sikh community can never forgive the Congress for these acts.

Many Punjab families move overseas to earn a living. Is this because of unemployment or lack of opportunities or is the atmosphere not conducive?

Punjab has witnessed misrule in the last decade, first by the Congress and now AAP. Punjab has had no big infrastructure project or investment coming into the state. This has resulted in joblessness. All this coupled with lawlessness has resulted in an exodus of youths to foreign countries.

On what issues is your party contesting the polls?

We are committed to more power-sharing with the state, besides a genuine federal structure. We also want the opening of the Attari and Ferozepur borders with Pakistan to facilitate trade with central Asia. We also want an end to draconian laws like the NSA. We have always strived to take everyone along on the path to progress. We'll work to preserve the atmosphere of peace and communal harmony.

'Should one have so many kids': Nitish's jibe at Lalu

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

BIHAR Chief Minister Nitish Kumar courted a controversy on Saturday when he took a jibe at Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Lalu Prasad over having "too many children", and asked "itna zyaada paida karna chahiye kisi ko, baal baccha (should someone have so many children)?"

Nitish made remarks against Lalu and his family members at an election rally in Bihar's Katihar Lok Sabha constituency from where JD(U) MP Dulal Chand Goswami is seeking re-election. He is pitted against former union minister and Congress candidate Tariq Anwar.

"Some people claim everything these days. They appointed their wives when they were removed from post (CM's post). Now, it is their children these days. 'Ab paida to bahut kar diya. Itna zyaada paida karna chahiye kisi ko, baal bacha?" asked Kumar while addressing a public rally at Katihar.

"Now they have involved their sons, daughters, and everyone. They keep saying something or other everywhere. They forget the old things, hence I want to tell everyone that no work was done in the state during the RJD regime. There were no roads or education," he added.

Lalu has a total of nine children—two sons and seven daughters. Lalu's wife Rabri Devi also ruled the state when RJD chief was put behind the bars for his involvement in multi-crore fodder scam in undivided Bihar. Later he was convicted in the fodder scam cases probed by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

RJD chief's two daughters—Misa Bharti (a Rajya Sabha member) and Rohini Archarya, who is based in Singapore, are contesting Lok Sabha elections from Patliputra and Saran seats in the state, respectively.

Rohini shot into fame after she donated one of her kidneys to his ailing father who later underwent a kidney transplant.

Lalu's younger son Tejashwi Prasad Yadav served as the state's deputy chief minister during the grand alliance government while his elder son Tej Pratap held environment portfolio.

On January 28 this year, Nitish who was heading the grand alliance government snapped ties with RJD and joined hands with old ally BJP to form an NDA government.

RJD spokesperson Mritunjay Tiwari attacked Nitish Kumar, who is also national president of JD(U), for making personal attack on RJD chief, saying that the chief minister has lost his balance because the BJP has not allowed him to share the stage with PM Narendra Modi.

Kshatriya women on hunger strike

Stepping up its attack on the BJP for failing to cancel the candidature of Parshottam Rupala from the Rajkot Lok Sabha seat, the Kshatriya community women will on Sunday launch a relay hunger strike across Gujarat until the voting day on May 7. Unmindful of the ongoing protests over the past few weeks, Rupala had filed his nomination from the seat on April 16. Last month, he had stirred a hornet's nest when he remarked on several Rajput rulers joining hands with the British and other foreign invaders and keeping "roti and beti" (trade and marriage) relations with them. Symbolic "dharm-raths" will be paraded in five zones as a protest against BJP. PT Jadeja, leader of the Kshatriya community, said, "We are granting the BJP time until April 22 for Rupala to withdraw his candidacy or for the government to intervene."

ELECTION2024

MP Cong exodus: Ex-MLA joins BJP

Exodus continues in the prime opposition Congress party in Madhya Pradesh. Yet another veteran Congress leader, the former MLA Hari Vallabh Shukla, joined the ruling BJP on Saturday. Shukla claimed that he was joininag the BJP due to the vision of PM Narendra Modi and development agenda of union minister and BJP candidate from Guna LS seat Jyotiraditya Scindia. Shukla who has been in BJP and BSP also in the past, had fought as BJP candidate against Scindia only from Guna LS seat in 2004, but lost the election by 86,000-plus votes. Political circles in MP are abuzz with strong possibility of Congress MLA Ramniwas Rawat also switching to the BJP

Cong for repoll in 47 Manipur booths

The Congress demanded repolling in 47 polling stations in Manipur after the violent first phase parliamentary election on Friday. The sporadic incidents of violence were reported mostly from the Inner Manipur seat which straddles the Meitei-majority Imphal Valley. The Outer Manipur parliamentary seat covers 28 Assembly segments – 20 of them in the Naga and Kuki hills. Fifteen Assembly segments went to polls. The remaining 13 will go to polls again in the second phase. There were several incidents of gunfire, intimidations, destruction of electronic voting machines and alleged booth capturing by the armed miscreants. Congress demanded repolling fall under the Inner Manipur seat. All 11 polling stations in the Outer Manipur seat where repolling was demanded fall under the Sugnu Assembly constituency.

Massive attack on Russian energy infra

KYIV

UKRAINE launched a wave of drones at Russia in the early hours of Saturday, setting a fuel depot ablaze, officials said, as both sides accused each other of deadly attacks on civilians.

The governor of Russia's Belgorod region said cross-border Ukrainian attacks left at least three people dead, while a Russian strike killed two in Ukraine's northeast.

A source in Ukraine's defence sector told AFP that Kyiv targeted eight Russian regions in the "large-scale" drone attack, which was aimed at "energy infrastructure that feeds Russia's military-industrial complex". "At least three electrical substations and a fuel storage base were hit and caught fire," the source said, calling it a "joint operation" of Ukraine's SBU security service, army, and the military intelligence.

Russia's defence ministry said it had intercepted 50 Ukrainian drones overnight, some of them hundreds of kilometres from the border, including near the capital Moscow. Video on social media purportedly showed a large blaze burning at a fuel depot in Russia's western Smolensk region, an attack that the governor confirmed was caused by drones. "Air defence forces shot the aerial vehicles down. However, as a result of falling debris, a tank with fuel and lubricants caught fire," governor Vasily Anokhin said.

Kyiv has ramped up strikes on Russian oil and gas facilities in recent months, part of what it calls "fair" retaliation on infrastructure used to fuel Russia's war. Ukrainian drones left two people in Russia's Belgorod border region dead, its governor said early Saturday, while shelling later in the day killed a pregnant woman. A residential building and a barn in the village of Poroz, less than two kilometres (one mile) from the frontier, were "completely burned down", governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said. Another building was severely damaged.

"As a result of the release of two explosive devices, a private residential building caught fire. Tragically, two civilians died—a woman who was recovering from a fractured femur, and a man who was caring for her," Gladkov wrote on Telegram.

He later said Ukraine shelled the village of Novaya Tavolzhanka, killing a pregnant woman and her unborn child. "Doctors did everything possible to save both mother and child. But to the great grief, the woman and the unborn baby died from their wounds," he said. *AFP*

People inspect destroyed cars following a missile attack in Dnipro | AP

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: Cable_Meggering_SBC_Div Dated: 15.04.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work.

Name of Work	Appx. Value
Outsourcing of Annual Cable Meggering Activity over Bengaluru Division for two years.	Rs. 1,79,70,456/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 11:00 hrs. of 06.05.2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer Bengaluru

PUB/29/AAV/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Corrigendum-4 to E-Tender notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/EPC/77/2023 Dated: 13.10.2023

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work.

Name of Work	Appx. Value
Construction Of New Broad Gauge Line Track Between Jagadal (Excl.) and Suttatti (Excl) for a length of 28.5 km Under Bagalkot-Kudachi New Line Project (142 Km) Including Signal & Telecommunication & Electrical Works. **(Tender Ref. No BGK-KUD-EPC-02)**	Rs. 423,36,92,709/-

Existing date of closing: **Up to 15:00 hrs. of 30.04.2024**

Revised date of closing: **Up to 15:00 hrs. of 14.06.2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer / Construction Works / Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/27/AAV/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

LOST

LOST & FOUND

This is to bring to your notice that I, Raghuveer A, residing @15/45, dream apartment, 1main, maruthi extn, Bangalore have lost my sale deed 4355/2009 of a plot no 94 (1500sqft), survey no 39 at Jagadguru Sri Shankaracolony, Achettipalli Hosur, Deed is Missing from 15/12/2023. If found kindly return to the above address

Contact No. 9448230196

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE

FLAT FOR RESALE

3 BHK flat in prime location at Alkapoor Township Manikonda for resale at Rs. 5580 per sqft. **Only bank payment acceptable.**

Contact 98719 52061

grooms

WANTED GROOM

Kerala Hindu SC girl Revathy 32/147 BTech, MACL Software Engineer MNC Hyderabad Seek suitable alliance: **9446467799**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client **Mr. SYED NOORUL HASSAN,** S/o D. Syed Abbas, residing at No. 168, Armstrong Road, Bengaluru - 560 001, being Document No 88, Volume. 900, Pages 186-191, the same registered at the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Civil Station, Shivajinagar, Bangalore, which has been lost/misplaced. My client has also lodged a police complaint No. 1022078/2024 on Dated: 20-04-2024, before the Bangalore City Police. Any person/s in possession of the aforesaid document may return the same to me or anyone having a sort of claim over the said property may lodge their objects in writing **within Seven (7) days** from this day to the under signed advocate.

ZAMEER BASHA, Advocate
No 17, Dispensary road,
Bengaluru 560.001. 80885 96176

PUBLIC NOTICE
LOST OF DOCUMENTS

I, **B.M. UDAY,** Aged about 45 years, S/o. late B.R. Mohan Raj, residing at #507, Ascott serviced apartment, 15th Cross, Indiranagar, 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560 038, I hereby declare that, myself and my brother B.M. Vinay are the joint owners of the immovable property bearing BDA Site No.1639, the layout formed by the Bangalore Development Authority, situated at **HSR Layout, Sector-7, Bangalore,** measuring East to West: 9.15 meters, North to South: 11.58 meters, totally measuring **105.957 Sq.mtrs.** I have lost the Original Absolute Sale Deed, vide registered as document **No.683/2000-01,** Book-I, Volume -4455, pages 41 to 42, dated 20-04-2020, in the office of the Sub Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk Original Sale Deed while traveling in and around the Indiranagar, on 12-04-2024.

In this regard I have lodged online police complaint, vide online lost report No. **1011517/2024** dated 12-04-2024. If anybody found please **Call: 9845996360.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that My client **Gowramma** W/o R.Srinivas, Residing at No. 294 Bayrlingappa Raste, Chikkasandra, Hesaraghatta Main Road Bangalore- 560057, hereby informs that, the Original Registered Sale Deed dated 14.06.1972, bearing Doc No.1478/1972-73 of Book-I, pages 180-182, as Registered in the Office of Sub-Register Rajajinagar Bangalore House No.294, Bayrlingappa Raste, Chikkasandra, Hesaraghatta Main Road Bangalore, has been lost/misplaced while shifting House from Muneshwara Temple road, Chikkasandra Bangalore on 06.03.2024. My client has also lodged an e-police complaint lost report No.0964446/2024 on 07.03.2024 before Bengaluru City Police. Any person's found the aforesaid document may return the same to me or hand over to the nearest police station anyone having any sort of claim over the said property may lodge their objections in writing **within 7 days** from this day

K. R. Venkataramana. Advocate
No.11, Second Floor, Jeevan Building Kumar Park East,
Bangalore 560 001.Mob:- 9741137378

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public are hereby notified that my client **G. DHANANJAYA,** aged about 45 years, S/o. Sri G Gangadharaiah, residing at No.199, "Shanthi Dama" Shanti Dama School Road, Sunkadakatte, Magadi Main Road, Viswaneedam Post, Bangalore – 560 091, further he is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property hereunder and he has lost/misplaced, the original registered Sale Deed Dated:17.01.2008, registered as Document No.NGB-1-04603/2007-08, Book-1, registered in the office of Sub-Registrar Nagarabhavi, Bangalore and Gift deed Dated:28.09.2017, registered as Document No.NGB-1-05190/2017-18, Book-1, registered in the office of Sub- Registrar Nagarabhavi, Bangalore in this regarding he has lodged Police Complaint on 20.04.2024, before the Bangalore City Police, vide Lost Report No.1021743/2024. In this regard any person having any right, title, interest or charge over or in the Schedule Property hereunder, may lodge their objections and /or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence by registered post within 07 days from the date of this publication and objections and /or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **Assessment No.11/1A-2,** Khatha No.55-A and 55, Property No.16-A and 16, situated at Sreegandha Kavalu Village, Yashawanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, previously comes under Rajarajeshwari CMC, presently comes under administrative jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Ward No.129, Bangalore, **measuring East to West 52 feet or 15.86 meter and North to South 30 feet or 9.15 meter, in all measuring 1560 Sq. ft., or 144.92 Sq. meter** and bounded on:

EAST BY : ROAD,
WEST BY : PRIVATE PROPERTY,
NORTH BY : PROPERTY NO.17,
SOUTH BY : PROPERTY NO.15.

A.S. Rajanna, Advocate,
RE Associates,
Beside BBMP office,K.R. Puram,
Bangalore-560 036. Ph: 9845179797,
Email: shubhakaranraj@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that my clients intend to purchase the property described in the schedule hereunder from its present owners namely **(1) MR.NAGENDRA GUPTA M. P,** s/o late Padmanabaiah Setty, aged about 67 years, residing at #12, 30th Cross, Kilari Road, Near Kamath Hotel, Chickpet, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru-560053.

(2) MR. SUBRAMANI. M.P, aged about 58 years, s/o late Padmanabaiah Setty, residing at No.12, 30th Cross, Kilari Road, Chickpet, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru 560053.

(3) SRI.M.P. RAMAKRISHNA GUPTA, aged about 53 years, s/o late Padmanabaiah Setty M, residing at No.#522. 3rd Main Road, Mathikere, Msrit, Bengaluru-560054 they having jointly acquired title to the same by way of Sale Deed dated 11.06.1993 registered as document No.730/93-94 of Book I, Volume 3945 at pages 172-178 at the office of the Sub-Registrar, Gandhinagar, Bangalore.

All persons/ firms/ companies/ banks/ financial institutions having or claiming any right, title, estate or interest by way of inheritance, share, sale, mortgage, transfer, lease, tenancy, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, devise, bequest, exchange, pre-emption, possession or encumbrance or otherwise howsoever into or upon the Schedule Property herein below described are called upon to intimate the same in writing, to the undersigned at the below given address, along with all supporting documents relating to such claim, **within 15 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any such claim, of any party, shall be deemed to have been waived for all legal practical purposes, and shall not be entertained hereafter and I shall opine that the Schedule Property is free of any claims and my clients will be free to proceed with the proposed purchase of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing Municipal No.12 (Old No.7) having PID No.28-69-12 measuring East to West 23 feet and North to South 27 1/2 feet along with existing building consist of GF + 4UF situated at 30th Cross, Kilari Road, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru 560 053 Ward No. 109 and bounded on:

East by: Road, **West by:** Sri.Ramanna Maistry Chikkanna and Sri. Balasubramanyachari's property **North by:** Ramachandra Reddy's property **South by:** Machine N. Yellappa's House /Property of Vishwamurthy.

Tejaswini Advocate
No.1698, 8th Main, HAL 3rd Stage, New Thippasandra, Bengaluru - 560075
Place: Bengaluru **Date:** 20.04.2024

QuoteExpress
NEVER COMPLAIN AND NEVER EXPLAIN
BENJAMIN DISRAELI

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that **SRI.T.CHIDAMBARAM AND SMT.SARANYA.R,** were the previous owners of immovable property mentioned in the schedule hereunder and they have lost the Sale deed dated 30/04/2018 bearing Document No. 1371/2018-19, of Book-1, stored in C.D.No. 438, executed by Sri.T.V.Nagaraju in favour of Sri.T.Chidambaram and Smt.Saranya.R, registered in the office of Sub-registrar, Basavanagudi, (Banashankari) Bangalore, pertaining to the schedule property and **SRI.ARUN.M.V AND KUMARI. SHWETHA.R** are intending purchase **Flat No.F-1, 3 BHK,** in the **First Floor** of the Apartment building Known as **"SRI LAKSHMI RESIDENCY"** constructed on Schedule 'A' Property having **super built up area 1320 Sq.ft with UDS 255 sq.ft in the land, constructed in schedule property, by availing housing loan from LICHFL.** In case anybody having any claims or in possession of the said document, shall inform the under singed and handover the same within SEVEN DAYS from the date of publication of this notice.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing **Site No.7,** in BDA approved layout formed by the Kanaka Gruha Nirmana Sahakara Niyamitha in Sy.No.6, situated at Subramanayapura Village (Marasandra), Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore Sotuh Taluk, as per the duly revised approved plan of the Bangalore Development Authority, vide resolution No.**108/ 1999,** dated:**03-07-1999** and work order No.**BDA/ TMP/ 2528/2001-02,** Dated:**29-01-2002,** presently comes within the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Maharagara Palike, measuring East to West :40-0" feet and North to South:60-0" feet in all measuring 2400 Sq. ft., and bounded as follows : East by : Site No.8,West by : Site No.6, North by : Road, South by : Site No.12 & 13,

N. JAGADEESH KUMAR, Advocate
No.30/1, 2nd Floor, 7th Cross,
Near NR Colony Bus Stand,
Opp. Hotel Dwaraka, Bangalore-560019.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to public that My CLIENTS **SRI H. GUNDURAO & SRI. KARTHIK .H.G,** have entered into an agreement for purchase of the schedule property from the owners **SMT. G.R. NAGARATHNA,** W/o Late **Shivaswamy .K.C, SRI SATISH BABU .K.S,** S/o Late Shivaswamy .K.C, both are residing at No. A-516, May Flower Block, Brigade Millennium, J.P. Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore-560078 and **SMT. ASHA LATHA .S** D/o. Late Shivaswamy .K.C, residing at No. 34, Obaiah Lane, Akkipet, Bangalore-560053, whosoever have got any interest title claim or objection over the sale of the schedule property shall lodge their claims or objections in writing with documentary evidence with the under signed within **fifteen (15) days** from the date of publications.

Which it would be deemed that there are no claims or objection for sale of the said property and my clients will complete the sale transactions resuming that there are no claims or objections from anybody.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable property Site No. 1193, 9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore presently BBMP Old Ward No. 64, New Ward No. 170, Corporation Municipal No. 15, Corporation PID No. 64-121-15, 26th Main Road, 9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore measuring East to West 55-0 feet and North to South 30-0 feet, together with 12 squares in Ground Floor, 12 Squares in First Floor & 12 Squares in Second Floor, RCC roofed building and bounded on:

East by : Site No. 1176, West by : Road, North by : Site No. 1194, South by : Site No. 1192.

V.S. BASAVARAJU, Advocate
No. 3, 2, 1st Cross, 3rd Main Road,
Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560018.
Date : 20-04-2024

INDIAN BANK

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

Bengaluru Cantonment Branch, No.35, Lady Curzon Road, Shivai Nagar, Ph:080-22958809, 9449864112

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sec. 13 (2) of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 **Date: 20.04.2024**

Borrowers & Guarantor(s): 1. Mr. Balasubramani G, S/o. Sri Govindaraj.G, No.422/2, Ground Floor, 9th Cross, Karim Sab Layout, Hegganahalli, Vishwaneedam, PO: Bangalore-91. **2. Office Add: M/s Sree Balaji Transport,** No.15, Ground Floor, 5th Main, Someshwara Nagar, 1st Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560011.

Sirs/ Madam,

Sub: Your Secured Loan account No.50435453057 with Indian Bank Bangalore Cantonment Branch-Reg

You committed default in repayment of loans to the tune of **Rs.35,94,144/- (Rupees Thirty Five lac Ninety Four Thousand One Hundred Forty Four only)** as on **30.03.2024** with further interest at the agreed rate from 8.95 % till date of repayment.

The Bank issued notice under the Act on **17.04.2024** calling upon you to repay the outstanding amount of **Rs. 35,94,144/- (Rupees Thirty Five lac Ninety Four Thousand One Hundred Forty Four only)** as on **30.03.2024** The notice was sent to you by *Regd. post has been returned unserved.

You are called upon to **Rs 35,94,144/- (Rupees Thirty Five lac Ninety Four Thousand One Hundred Forty Four only)** together with interest from **11.05.2023** till date of payment within **60 days** from the date of this notice failing which Bank will be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest as against the secured assets given in the schedule hereunder. This Notice is without prejudice to any other right remedy available to the Bank.

*****This Notice is without prejudice to any other remedy available to the Bank-including its right to proceed with the proceedings presently pending before DRT/RO of DRT/DRAT/Court and proceed with the execution of order/decree obtained/to be obtained.

SCHEDULE:

The specific details of the assets in which security interest is created are enumerated hereunder: All that piece and parcel property bearing site No.28, Northen Portion of khata No.51, Assessment No.51 situated at cross, Sanjivini Nagar, Hegganahalli, Yeshwantpura, Hobli, Bangalore-560091 of area 600 sqft, East to west 40 ft and North to south 15 feet. **East by:** Road, **West by:** Site No 36, **North by:** Site No.27, **South by:** Site No.28.

Date: 20.04.2024 **Sd/- Authorized Officer**
Place: Bangalore **Indian Bank, Cantonment Branch**

PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR LOST DOCUMENT

My Client 1. Ms. Shruthi A w/o Madereddy Ravindra Reddy 2. Madereddy Ravindra Reddy s/o Suryanarayana Reddy Resident of #842, 4th Floor, 2nd Door, 8th Cross, ITI Layout, HSR Layout, Sector 7, Bangalore - 560068 has lost irretrievable lost the original sale deed dated 21.05.2022 Registered as document No: BSK-1-02314-2022-23 CD No-BSKD1314 at the office of the Sub Registrar Basavanagudi (Banashankari) registered on 21.05.2022 and katha. My client has lodged a Police complaint for lost article on 06.04.2024 under acknowledgement issued by the Bengaluru City Police, bearing SL No. 1004852 Lost Report No.100485 2/2024.

If any person/s found the said sale deed please come forward within a period of **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice and hand over the same to the under signed, will be suitable rewarded. If anyone already carried out any transaction or any transaction in the process of being carried out using the missing document, kindly informed the undersigned party in writing at the below mentioned address within **7 days** from this paper publication. Else there won't be any further claims from thereon.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy.No.115/1, Site/Plot No. 244, measuring East to West 9.14 Mtrs (30Ft.) and North to South: 12.19 Mtrs (40Ft.) Situated in "Geown Oasis Phase-2" a residential project at Valagere Kallahalli Village, Sarjapur Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru - 562125

RAMAKRISHNA (Ramu), ADVOCATE
Office: No.17&32, Ground Floor, Amar Towers, Ghandinagar, Bangalore-560009.
Mo: 9448987172 / 7411698066

PUBLIC NOTICE

That my client has negotiated to **PURCHASE THE BELOW MENTIONED SCHEDULE PROPERTY** from the Present owners Smt. M. Saroja D/o. Late Sri. K. Muniswamy Iyar and W/o Krishna Murthy H.S, aged about 83 years, residing at No.904/A, 3rd Main, 1st D Block, 2nd Stage Gayathrinagar, Bangalore-560010, Smt. K.M. Jagadamba D/o. Late Sri. K. Muniswamy Iyar, aged about 76 years residing at No.427, 1st Floor, 24th Main, BTM Layout, 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560076, and Shri. A. R. Srinivas S/o. Shri. A. Ranganath, aged about 60 years, residing at No.7/1, 3rd Cross Road, Raghavendra colony, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560 018. If anybody having any claims, right, title, interest or any objections of the proposed sale, may please submit their representations/Objections along with the documentary proof to the undersigned advocate within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, if no response from anybody, my client shall be at liberty to proceed to obtain the Sale Deed in his favour from the aforesaid owners.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ITEM No. 1 : (DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY SMT. M. SAROJA AND SMT. K.M. JAGADAMBA)

All that piece and parcel of Property bearing present Municipal Khatha No.7, PID No. 46-23-7 (Old Nos. 111/1A and Later numbered 136) situated at 1st Cross Road presently 3rd Cross Road, Raghavendra colony, Fifth Main Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore, Coming under BBMP Ward No. 140 Chamrajpet, measuring about 1750 Square Feet and together with building.

ITEM No.2 : (DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY SRI. A. R. SRINIVAS)

All that piece and parcel of Property bearing present Municipal Khatha No.7/1, PID No. 46-23-7/1 (Old Nos.111/1A and Later numbered 136) situated at 1st Cross Road presently 3rd Cross Road, Raghavendra Colony, Fifth Main Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore, Coming under BBMP Ward No. 140-Chamrajpet, measuring East to West 19-0 Feet and North to South 8-0 feet total measuring 150 Square Feet and together with building.

COMPOSITE PROPERTY OF ITEM No.1 & ITEM No.2 HEREBY MY CLIENT HAS NEGOTIATED TO PURCHASE)

All that piece and parcel of Property bearing present Municipal Khatha No. 7, PID No. 46-23-7 and present Municipal Khatha No.7/1, PID NO.46-23-7/1 (Old Nos.111/1A and Later numbered 136) situated at 1st Cross Road presently 3rd Cross Road, Raghavendra Colony, Fifth Main Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore, Coming under BBMP Ward No. 140-Chamrajpet, land measuring East to West 39-0 Feet and North to South 60-0 Feet total measuring 2340 Square Feet and together with building and bounded on:

East by : Sri. B.R. Gopalrao's House or Private property, **West by :** Houses of Sri. K.V. Nagaraja Rao and Sri. Murthi Rao or Private Property, **North by :** House and Site belonging to Sri. B.R. Srinivasa Rao or Private property, **South by :** 1st Cross Road (presently 3rd Cross Road)

N. SOMASHEKARA, Advocate
No. A/4, 3rd Cross, 32nd Main Road,
Jayanagar, Jayanagar 7th Block,
Bengaluru-560076.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works:

Tender Notice No. E-GSU-ELE-2024-25-OT-6 Dated 15.04.2024

Name of Work	Approx. Value
Modernisation of Bangarapet, Malur and Kuppam station under Amrit Bharat Scheme - Provision of Substation	Rs. 3,33,39,530.22/-

Tender Notice No. E-GSU-ELE-2024-25-OT-7 Dated 15.04.2024

Name of Work	Approx. Value
Modernisation of Hosur and Dharmapuri station under Amrit Bharat Scheme - Provision of Substation	Rs. 2,37,65,212.94/-

Last date for submission of bids for both the above tenders: **Up to 11:00 hrs. of 08.05.2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer / GSU Bengaluru

PUB/26/AAV/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

LOST OF DOCUMENTS

Mr. Aravind Kumar Parekh, aged about 57 years, S/o Sri. Late Mangilal, Residing at 20, 3rd Cross, Gandhinagar, Bangalore - 560009. to hereby inform to the general public that between 11th January 2024. While I was shifting my house at Gandhinagar I Lost my document of General Power of Attorney on dated 25th day of August 2006. (25/08/2006) between Mr. Aravind Kumar Parekh and Mr. Sandeep Parekh in spite of best efforts I Could not trace the document.

My client has also logged a complaint before Bengaluru City Police on 20.04.2024, Compliant No. 1022101/2024 which registered as Lost of report. If anybody has found the same or having knowledge about the above said document the same may be kindly returned or intimated to the said address or inform to the said contact or number handover to the nearest police station. If any objections / claims with documentary evidence with in 7 days of the paper publication contact the Said adress.

Advocate : **Ritish D Naik**
#14/19, 1st Floor, 2nd Main,
Kumara Park West, Bangalore - 560020.
Mob: +91 88845 03747

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: Hiring_MP_Railnet_FOIS Dated: 15.04.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work.

Name of Work	Appx. Value
Hiring of Highly skilled, semi skilled & unskilled manpower for maintenance & monitoring of Rail net / FOIS network along with provision of new connectivity in DRM building, associated offices, railway colony at Bengaluru & Yesvantpur for period of 2 years.	Rs. 88,80,408/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 11:00 hrs. of 06.05.2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer Bengaluru

PUB/30/AAV/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that **SMT. JYOTHI.R,** IS the owner of immovable property mentioned in the schedule hereunder and they have lost the original Sale Deed dated 16/9/2015 bearing Document No.5679/2015-16, Book-I, executed by Sri.Kishore Kumar.K & others in favour of Sri.Chikkadevaiah. registered in the office of sub registrar, Kengeri, pertaining to the schedule property. In case anybody having any claims or in possession of the said document, shall inform the under singed and handover the same within **SEVEN DAYS** from the date of publication of this notice.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Site No.48, Old V.P. Khata No.3, New Khatha No.3/1,3/2,3/3 &3/4 situated at B.M.Kaval Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West 50 ft., North to South 30 ft., totally 1500 Sq.ft, comes under the limits of Agara Village Panchayath and bounded on : **East by :** Road, **West by :** Site No.29, **North by :** Site No.49, **South by :** Site No.47.

N. JAGADEESH KUMAR, Advocate
No.30/1, 2nd Floor, 7th Cross,
Near NR Colony Bus Stand,
Opp. Hotel Dwaraka, Bangalore-560019.

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, BANGALORE
4th Floor, Telephone House Building Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru.

O.A. No.1442 of 2019

Between:
UCO Bank,
Branch, Vasanthnagar, Bangalore .... Applicant
AND
Mrs Lalitha S and others .... Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

Defendant No.1: Mrs Lalitha S, Aged about 41 years, W/o Sri Srinivasa Murthy, Residing at No. 1031, 2nd Floor, Krest Park Apartments, Aged about 41 years, W/o Sri Srinivasa Murthy, Residing at No.1031, 2nd Floor, Krest Park Apartments, Old Kanakpura Road, Basavangudi, Bangalore.

Defendant No.2: Mr Srinivas Murthy S, Aged about 43 years, S/o Sri Yerrappa H, Residing at No.1031, 2nd Floor, Krest Park Apartments, Old Kanakpura Road, Basavangudi, Bangalore.

Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an Application U/S 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against of you for recovery **Rs.57,82,518/- (Rupees Fifty Seven Lakh Eighty Two Thousand Five Hundred and Eighteen Only)** together with current and future interest and for other relief. The above mentioned defendants are required to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an Advocate in support of their defiance to show cause on **10/06/2024 at 10.30 a.m.** (forenoon) as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence. Take notice of interim relief sought.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this, the **19th day of April 2024.**

Sd/- Registrar, Debts Recovery Tribunal-I, Bangalore.

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, BANGALORE
4th Floor, Telephone House Building Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru.

O.A. No. 393 of 2021

Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rules 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules 1993.

UCO Bank, Bidarhalli Branch
Vs
M/s Ambica Fabricators and others,
SUMMONS

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

Defendant No.1: M/s Ambica Fabricators, A proprietorship concern represented by its proprietrix Mrs Govindamma, At No.12, 2nd Cross, Nallurahalli Main Road, Whitefield, Bengaluru-560066. PAN No.: CIBPM1892B

Defendant No. 2: Mrs Govindamma, aged about 47 years, W/o Sri Munirathna, At No.45, Doctor's Colony, Whitefield Post, Bengaluru-560066.

Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an Application under section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against you for recovery of **Rs.45,09,272/- (Rupees Forty Five Lakh Nine Thousand Two Hundred and Seventy Two Only)** together with current and future interest and for other relief. The above mentioned defendants are required to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an Advocate in support of their defence to show cause on **07/06/2024 at 10.30 a.m.** (forenoon) as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence. Take notice of interim relief sought.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this, the **18th day of April 2024.**

Sd/- Registrar, Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Bangalore.

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

KASTURINAGAR BRANCH
No.2, AM-318, 2nd 'A' Main Road, 3rd 'A' Cross, East of NGEF Layout, Kasturinagar, Bengaluru-560043

ABANDONMENT NOTICE

Notice under The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 - As regards taking possession of movables hypothecated and not hypothecated to the Bank - (ABANDONMENT of items not hypothecated to the Bank).

To: 1. Mr.D Parthasarathy S/o Devaraj, House No.276-A, 5th Cross, 5th Main Layout, Peenya 2nd Stage, Laggere Village, Bengaluru-560091. **2. Mrs Sujatha W/o D Parthasarathi,** House No.276-A 5th Cross, 5th main Layout, Peenya 2nd Stage, Laggere Village, Bengaluru 560091.

Sirs,

Sub: Loan account/s Mr.D Parthasarathy & Mrs Sujatha

Mr. D Parthasarathy and Mrs Sujatha availed certain facilities from our Kasturi Nagar Branch. The repayment of the said loans are secured by mortgage of certain property (ies). D Parthasarathy and Mrs Sujatha failed to pay the outstanding to the bank and therefore was called upon to pay the amount due vide notice dated 21.06.2021 issued under Sec.13(2) of the Act. It was made clear that if payment is not made within 60 days, Bank will be constrained to exercise its rights by taking possession of the securities.

As D Parthasarathy and Mrs Sujatha failed to make payment Bank took possession of the property more fully described in the schedule hereunder on 02.09.2021. (A copy of the possession notice is enclosed.)

While taking possession, Bank has taken inventory of movables/goods/items, which were found inside the schedule-mentioned property.

**An inventory and Panchnama has been drawn for those movables/goods/items hypothecated to the Bank and found inside the schedule mentioned property as per the format prescribed in the Rules framed under the Act. A copy of the same is enclosed. Bank has taken an inventory of items found inside the schedule-mentioned property, not hypothecated to the Bank. A copy of the same is enclosed/ available with the AO. You are hereby called upon to make arrangements to remove the said items not hypothecated/charged to the Bank within 15 days' time. It is hereby made clear that Bank shall not be responsible for any loss/pilferage of such items. It is also made clear that Bank shall not take any insurance coverage for these items, as they are not charged/hypothecated to the Bank.

You are at liberty to take possession of those movables at your cost and expenses at a time to be fixed in advance with the Authorised Officer. If you do not remove those movables immediately and / or within 15 days, Bank will be constrained to abandon the items without any further reference to you in this regard.

Bank will not be responsible for any insurance and / or deterioration in value of the securities. The items are kept in a separate place only in adherence to principles of natural justice, though there is no legal obligation cast on the Bank.

Take final notice to take delivery of goods within 15 days of this notice, failing which Bank will be constrained to abandon all the items, for which you and you alone will be held responsible.

SCHEDULE

The specific details of the assets which has been taken possession of and which has been let out on tenancy to be given hereunder:

MORTGAGED ASSETS:

Item No. 1 : All that piece and parcel of immovable property (residential building) bearing site No. 276/A-in the layout formed by GKW employees house building Co-Op society Ltd in Sy.No.111/1,111/2a,111/3 of Laggere Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru within the limits of BBMP ward no.70, earlier within the Revenue and administrative Jurisdiction of Dassarahalli CMC now BBMP measuring East to west(16+30)/2 feet road and North to south (44+43-6) feet totally 1006.25 Sq.Ft. **Bounded by:** East by other properties; West by remaining portion of site no.276-A, North by Road and South by Site no. 277.

Item No. 2 : All that piece and parcel of immovable property (residential building) being the western portion of Site no.18,19 and 20 in Survey No.110/1 of Laggere Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore within the limits of BBMP ward no.70, earlier within the Revenue and administrative Jurisdiction of Dassarahalli CMC now BBMP. Measuring East to west (7-6+0)/2 Feet road and North to south 23 Feet totally 87-4 Sq.Ft. **Bounded by:** East by remaining portion of same site; West by Eastern portion of site no. 276-A in the layout formed by GKW layout, North by Rod and South by others property.

Date: 20.04.2024, Place: Bangalore **Authorised Officer, Indian Bank**

AXIS BANK Plot No. 41, Seshadri Road, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore-560009

DEMAND NOTICE

A notice is hereby given that the following borrowers have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of credit facilities obtained by them from the bank and said facilities have turned in to Non-performing Assets. The notices were issued to them under section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. 2002 on their last known addresses, however the same have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower	Property Address on Which Loan Availed	Notice Date	Bal. O/S (Claimed) in Rs.
1	**(1) Mr. Shanthraj B,** S/o. Mr. Bommappa, **(2) Mrs. Padma Jain,** W/o. Mr. Shanthraj B, **Both are Residing at :** No. 811 G F, Dwaraka Nagar, 16th Cross, Channasandra Beside R R Nagar, Bangalore - 560098. **Property Address:- (3) Mr. Shanthraj B,** S/o. Mr. Bommappa, **(4) Mrs. Padma Jain,** W/o. Mr. Shanthraj B, **Both are Residing at** : Site No. 13, MRR Paradise, Sy No. 27/6, 27/4 And 27/5, Hemmigepura Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore Banashankari, Bangalore - 560060.	All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Site No.13, in 'MRR PARADISE' carved out of converted survey No.27/4, 27/5, 27/6 Situated at Hemmigepura Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Site measuring East to West: (8.97+7.88)/2 Meter, North to South: (9.20+9.14)/2 Meter, boundaries on: East By : Pathway, West By : 24 Mts Road, North By : Site No.12, South By : Site No.14. **For any clarification please contact Mr. Thrimoorthy 9036773553.**	**22.03.2024** **NPA Date 04.03.2024**	**Loan No. PHR168802739254 Power Home Vanilla BRE** **Total Amount Rs.9,68,448/- due as on 19.03.2024**
2	**(1) Mr. Suresh Shetty** S/o. Mr. Sanjeev Shetty, No.16/402, 4th Floor, VBHC Apartments, Chandapura Anekal Road, Bangalore-560081. **Also at:** No.540, 14th Cross, 3rd Block, Vishwapriya Layout, Bommanahalli, Bangalore 560068. **Property Address:- (2) Mr. Suresh Shetty** S/o. Mr. Sanjeev Shetty, Plot No. 68, Utopia Layout, Lingapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore 560099.	All that piece and parcel of the converted Residential Plot bearing No.68, Khatha No.140/68, in Survey No.14/1A1 plot measuring east to West: 45 Feet and North to South: 30 Feet, in all measuring 1350 Square Feet, in the layout named as "UTOPIA". Formed in the converted lands i.e. schedule 'A' property as mentioned above, situated at Lingapura Village. Kasaba Hobli. Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, and the said layout having been duly approved by the ANEKAL PLANNING AUTHORITY as per Layout Plan approval order bearing No. APA/LAO/78/2014-15 DATED 18.03.2015. Which is measuring, East to West: 45Feet, North to South: 30 Feet Totally measuring: 1350 Sq. ft. Bounded by: East by : Site No.49, West by : 9.14 Meter Road, North by : Site No.67, South by : Site No.69. **For any clarification please contact Mr. Thrimoorthy 9036773553**	**22.03.2024** **NPA Date 09.03.2024**	**Loan No. PHR000903952448 Power Home Vanilla BRE** **Total Amount Rs. 13,32,387/- as on 19.03.2024**
3	**(1) M/s Cubix Marketing** Hongasandra Village, No.46/3A, Bangalore South Taluk, 7th Main, Hosur Road, Begur, Bangalore-560068. **Also At: M/s Cubix Marketing Mr.Yousuf V K (Proprietor)** Flat No.21/1, Ist floor, Block-J, Kammasandra Village, Bangalore, Karnataka 560041. **(2) Mr.Yousuf V K** S/o Abubacker Vasim Khan Flat No.21/1, Ist floor, Block-J, Kammasandra Village, Bangalore, Karnataka 560041.	All that piece and parcel of Apartment bearing J-101, Katha No.4998/21/1/FF-101 on the First Floor of the residential apartment complex known as 'PRIDE PRISTINE', constructed and erected on residentially converted land bearing Sy.no.21/1, situated at Kammasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District with 0.756% equivalent to 391.43 Sq.ft., of undivided share in land, measuring about 905 Sq.ft. of super built-up area (725 Sq.ft. of carpet area) including proportionate share in common areas together with one covered car parking space in the basement/ ground floor exclusively earmarked for the sole use. The Total Property Is Bounded As Follows: On the East By: Road followed by Vasundhara Layout, West BY: Sy.No.21/2, North BY: Sy.No.7/9, South BY: Private property **For any clarification please contact Mr. Ranjith Kumar R 9739959992**	**18.03.2024** **NPA Date 30.12.2023**	**Loan No. 1 919030092579206 Over draft Rs.32,65,477.27/-** **Loan No. 2 922060049981844 Term Loan Rs.8,67,842/-** **Total Amount Rs.41,33,319.27/- as on 12.03.2024**
4	**(1) Mr. Vinodh** S/o. Mr. Thilakaraj, **(2) Mrs. Priyanka** W/o. Mr. Vinodh, **Both are residing at :** Flat No. 610, Alfuttaim Realestate, 232/24, Near Yusuf Baker Building, Dubai - 5628, No. 4131/8, 2nd Main Road, B Block, Subramanyanagar, Bangalore - 560021. **Also at : Mr. Vinodh** S/o. Mr. Thilakaraj, **Mrs. Priyanka,** W/o. Mr. Vinodh, **Both are residing at :** No. 3768A, 1st Floor, 9th Cross, Gayathri Nagar, Bangalore 560021. **Property Address:- Mr. Vinodh** S/o. Mr. Thilakaraj, **Mrs. Priyanka,** W/o. Mr. Vinodh, Site No. 123, Old Khatha, No. 45/1, Ward No. 195, Kothanur Village, Uttarah, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore - 560077.	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.123 BBMP Khata No: 986/ 123/177 situated at Kothanur Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk within the jurisdictional limits of BBMP measuring East to West: 25 Feet and from North to South: 30 Feet in all measuring 750 Square Feet and bounded as follows: East by : Site No. 124 belongs to B V Rajanna, West by : Site No.122 belongs to B Suresh, North by : Road, South by : Site No. 132 belongs to N Shivashankar **For any clarification please contact Mr. Thrimoorthy 9036773553**	**22.03.2024** **NPA Date 09.03.2024**	**Loan No. PHR000901112177 Power Home** **Total Amount Rs. 1,60,194/- as on 19.03.2024**

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrowers and/ or the guarantors (where ever applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice as per the provision of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. 2002. Please note that under Section 13(13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, after Receipt of Notice referred to in Sub-section (2), transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

The Borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of sections 13 of the Act. The borrowers may redeem the secured assets by paying the dues of the secured creditor together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or inviting quotations or tender from public or private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of the secured assets.

Place : Bangalore **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Date : 19.04.2024 **Axis Bank Ltd.**

QuoteExpress
IF YOU'RE GOING THROUGH HELL, KEEP GOING › WINSTON CHURCHILL

FORMAT C-2

(For Political Party to Publish in Website, Newspapers, TV)

Declaration about Criminal antecedents of candidates set up by the party

(As per the judgment dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No.536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

Name of Political Party : **INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS PARTY**

* Name of Election : **GENERAL ELECTION TO THE HOUSE OF PEOPLE – 2024 (LOKSABHA)**

Name of State/~~UT~~ : **KARNATAKA**

1	2	3	4		5	
Sl. No.	Name of candidate	Name of constituency	Pending criminal cases		Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences	
			Name of Court, case No. & status of the case(s)	Sections of the Acts concerned & brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed
1	M. LAKSHMANA	21-MYSORE PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY, KARNATAKA	i) 32 Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bangalore. Case No. PCR/0001391/2024, Under Trail	Section 500 of IPC. Defamation	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
			ii) 32 Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bangalore. Case No. PCR/0006499/2023 Under Trail	Section 500 of IPC. Defamation	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
			iii) PRL Civil Judge & JMFC, Chikmagalur. Case No. CC/469/2023 Under Trail	Section 499, 500 of IPC. Defamation	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
			iv) 4th JMFC, Mysore. Case No. CC No.24/2023 Under Trail	Section 290 of IPC. Section (3) of Disfigurement Act	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
2	SUNIL BOSE	22-CHAMARAJNAGAR (SC) PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY, KARNATAKA	PRL Civil Judge (Jr.Dn) & JMFC Court, Nanjanagud, Mysore District. Case No. CC320/2018 Under Trail	Distributing Butter Milk and Fruits to Public and Party Workers while Canvassing for Vote on 28-03-2017.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
3	D.K. SURESH	23-BANGALORE RURAL PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY, KARNATAKA	FIR No 0112/2023 42nd Addl Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bangalore FIR No 0112/2023 Rajarajeshwari Nagara Police Station, Bangalore Allegation that the accused have violated the Model Code of Conduct	Under section 171B, 171E of IPC and section 123(1), 123(2) of Representation of People's Act 1950, 1951, 1989 Allegation that the accused have violated the Model Code of Conduct	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
			CC No-194/2022 In the Court of Principal Civil Judge (Jr. Dn) and JMFC, Kanakapura, Ramangara District. (Stage-Awaiting Summons) FIR No.0013/2022 Ramanagara Rural Police Station, Ramanagara Case is filed during Mekedatu Padayathre alleging disobedience to law by violating the rules of Covid-2019.	Under section 5(3A) of Karnataka Epidemic Diseases Act- 2020 and Under Section 141, 143, 290, 336, 149 IPC. Case is filed during Mekedatu Padayathre alleging disobedience to law by violating the rules of Covid-2019.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
			CC No-8717/2022 XLII Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (Spl. Court to deal with Criminal cases related to sitting as well former MPs/MLAs triable by Magistrate in the State of Karnataka), Bangalore City. FIR No.0013/2022 Ramanagara Rural Police Station, Ramanagara Case is filed during Mekedatu Padayathre alleging disobedience to law by violating the rules of Covid-2019.	Under section 5(3A) of Karnataka Epidemic Diseases Act 2020 and Under Section 141, 143, 290, 336, 149 IPC. Case is filed during Mekedatu Padayathre alleging disobedience to law by violating the rules of Covid-2019.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
4	M.S. RAKSHA RAMAIAH	27-CHIKKABALLAPUR PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY, KARNATAKA	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE	Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bangalore Date of Order of Conviction : 23.12.2021	Offences under Section IPC 1860 (149), IPC 1860 (188), IPC 1860 (269) Disaster Management Act Section 51(b) Punishment imposed : INR 200/- U/s. 188 IPC INR 200/- U/s. 269 r/w sec 149 IPC INR 250/- U/s. 51(b) D.M.A Act
5	GOUTHAM.K.V	28-KOLAR (SC) PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY, KARNATAKA	2nd Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bangalore FIR No.133/2016, Thalaghattapura Police Station, Bangalore CC.NO.5992/2018 Case No.Crl.P.No.7358/2018 (KAHC010484912018) Stay order dated 5/10/2018. Thalaghattapura Police Station, represented by State Public Prosecutor	Under Section: 34, 406, 468, 420, 415, 405 of IPC 1860 Yes Appeal challenging the proceedings before the 2nd Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate in C.C.No.5992/2018 has been filed before the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka in Crl.P.No. 7358/2018 and the Hon'ble High Court has stayed all further proceedings in CC.No.5992/2018 on 05.10.2018.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
6	MANSOOR ALI KHAN	25-BANGALORE CENTRAL PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY, KARNATAKA	XXII Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Secunderabad, Telangana State Case No. 231/2023, Market Police Station, Secunderabad Status of the Case: Under trail	Section 143, 188, 341, 290 r/w 149 of Indian Panel Code & Section 21/76 of Consumer Protection Act In Dharna & Obstructing Public Road	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Continued to Next Page

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

Chandapura Circle Branch
Chandapur -Anekal Road,
Anekal Taluk Bangalore- 560 099 ,
Phone : 9483501065
Email : cb1065@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/ physicalpossession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Chandapura Circle Branch** of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and " Whatever there is" on **08.05.2024** for recovery of **Rs.3,69,54,935.95** (Rupees Three Crore Sixty Nine Lakh Fifty Four Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty Five and Paise Ninety Five Only) as on 15.04.2024 and interest thereon due to the **Chandapura Circle Branch (1065)** of Canara Bank from **M/s. B. R. Electronics and Home Appliances and 1. Sri M. Balaraju** S/o. Muniyallappa, **2. Mr. M. Laxmaiah** S/o. Munisamappa (Guarantor).
The reserve price will be **Rs.2,86,70,000/-** (Rupees Two Crore Eighty Six Lakhs Seventy Thousand Only) and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs.28,67,000/-**. (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakhs Sixty Seven Thousand Only) The Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before **07.05.2024** at **4.00 pm.**

Name of the Owner/Mortgagor: Sri M. Balaraju

Description of the immovable property

All the piece and parcel of land and building existing in land bearing Sy. No. 84, Sl. No. 243, Old Assessment No. 146, New Assesment No. 157, Junjar No. 243, Old Property No. 146 and New Property no. 157, situated at Iggaluru Village of Chandapura- Anekal Road, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on : East by : Private Property and Road, West by :Chikkathayamma, North by : Property of Muniyappa, South by : Property of Laxmaiah.

Title Holder : Sri M. Balaraju

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may contact **Authorised Officer, Chandapura Circle, Jaganamma Reddy Building,** Bangalore Ph. No. 9483501065, E mail Id : cb1065@canarabank.com during office hours on any working day.

Place: Chandapura
Date: 20.04.2024

Sd/-Authorised Officer
Canara Bank, Chandapura Circle Branch

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS
(Ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction)
O.A. Nos. 996 & 997 of 2023
IN
A.No. 6207 of 2023
IN
C.S. (Commercial Division) No. 284 of 2023

M/s. KALEESUWARI REFINERY PRIVATE LIMITED,
... Applicant / Plaintiff
-Versus-
H.K.Global Enterprises
... Respondent / Defendant

To
H.K.Global Enterprises,
TR Layout, Magadi Town,
Near BGS College,
Ramanagara District - 562 120

Please take notice that the above-named Applicant / Plaintiff has filed the above mentioned O.A. Nos. 996 & 997 of 2023 IN A.No. 6207 of 2023 IN C.S. (Com.Div) No. 284 of 2023 before the Hon'ble court, the matter came up for hearing 27.03.2024 and the Hon'ble court directed to effect substituted service on the respondent / defendant by effecting paper publication in any vernacular daily, having wide circulation in the State of Karnataka for the hearing on 24.04.2024. Therefore, be present on the said day either in person or through your counsel failing which the matter will be heard and decided in your absence at your risk and cost.

VIJAYAN SUBRAMANIAN
Counsel For Applicant / Plaintiff

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)

CHIKKABIDARAKALLU BRANCH
Jindal Nagar, Nagasandra Post,
Bengaluru-560073

POSSESSION NOTICE

(For Immovable Property)*
[Appendix IV under the Act-rule-8(1)*

Where, the then authorized officer of the **Canara Bank, Bengaluru Chikkabidarakallu Branch** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2), read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated **17th February 2024 (17/02/2024),** calling upon the Borrowers: **1) Sri Vijay Kumar B N** S/o Narayana B H. No. 5/8/260/4/5, Makali Village, Alur Road, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk-562123, **2) Sri Narayana B H** S/o Huchappa, No. 5/8/260/4/5, Makali Village, Alur Road, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk-562123 and **3) Smt Sowbhagyamma C K,** W/o Narayana B H, No.5/8/260/4/5, Makali Village, Alur Road, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk-562123, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 13,07,747.37 (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Seven and Paisa Thirty Seven Only)** within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The owner of property **Smt. Sowbhagyamma C K** failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to owner of the property and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said ruled on this **18th April 2024.**

The owner of property in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Canara Bank, Chikkabidarakallu Branch, Bengaluru- 560073** for an amount of **Rs. 13,34,186.37 (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Thirty Four Thousand One Hundred Eighty Six and Paisa Thirty Seven Only)** as on **17/04/2024** plus interest thereon, costs etc.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing No.5/8/260/4/5 situated at Makali Village, Alur road, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 60 feet total measuring 2400 Sqft and bound on the East by: : Road, West by: Part of Narayanamma, North by: Site No. 6, South by: Site No.3.

Date : 18.04.2024
Place : Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank

Branch Office- ICICI Bank Ltd. 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanhalli Hosur Main Road Bangalore- 560068

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Shruthi/ K N Avinash/ LBBNG00005863745/ LBBNG00005884350	All That Piece and Parcel of The Residential Vacant Site Bearing No.187, Katha No. 4292, Formed In Converted Survey Nos.10/3 and 133/2, Vide Conversion Order No. B.DIS. ALN.SR. (S)419/92-93, Dated: 22-05-1993, Issued By The Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, Duly Converted From Agricultural To Non- Agricultural Residential Purposes, Situated at Gottigere Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Presently Comes Under The Jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Ward No. 196, Bangalore, Having New Property No. 2953/ 4292/ 187, Together With All Rights, Appurtenances, Whatsoever Underneath or Above The Surface and Bounded on The: East By: Site No.186 West By: Road North By: Road South By: Site No.188 And 189 Measuring: East To West: 45.5 North To South: 41.5 Feet in All Measuring: 1888.25 Square Feet/ Physical Possession on 18.04.2024	07.12.2023 Rs. 99,13,277/-	Bangalore

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : April 20, 2024
Place : Bangalore

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

QuoteExpress **IF YOU'RE GOING THROUGH HELL, KEEP GOING** > WINSTON CHURCHILL

- 2 -

1	2	3	4		5	
Sl. No.	Name of candidate	Name of constituency	Pending criminal cases		Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences	
			Name of Court, case No. & status of the case(s)	Sections of the Acts concerned & brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed
7	SOWMYA REDDY	26-BANGALORE SOUTH PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY, KARNATAKA	1st Addl Civil Judge(Jr Dvn) & JMFC Court Kanakapura. CC 145/2022 Accused No.22 & Status of case as Pending FIR No.0001/2022 Sathanur Police Station. Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District.	(Case filed during Mekedatu Padayatra) U/s 141, 143, 290, 336R/W149 of Indian Penal Code & 5(3A) of Karnataka Epidemic Diseases Act 2020 To compel any person to do what he is not legally bound to do, Unlawful assembly, public nuisance, Act so rashly, negligently the personal safety of others, Negligence over restrictions to prevent the outbreak of any disease.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
			42nd ACMM(Spl Court to deal with Criminal Cases related to MPs/MLAs trailable by Magistrate in State of Karnataka, Bengaluru. CC 25317/2022 Accused No.12 & Status of case as Pending PCR NO : 54158/2022 Shivaji Nagara Police Station, Bengaluru	Under Section 188 IPC and Under Section 103 of Karnataka Police Act 1963 Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant, Contravenes any orders and any of the conditions of a license.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
			42nd ACMM(Spl Court to deal with Criminal Cases related to MPs/MLAs trailable by Magistrate in State of Karnataka, Bengaluru. Crime No.339/2023 & Status of case as Pending FIR No.12/2021, Upparpet Police Station, Bengaluru	Under Section 504, 323, 353 of IPC Intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace, Punishment for voluntarily causing hurt, Assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
			2nd ACMM Bengaluru. Crime No.149/2022 Accused No.21 & Status of case as Pending FIR No.149/2022 Siddapura Police Station, Bengaluru	Under Section 103 Karnataka Police Act 1963 and U/s 3 of Prevention of Damage to Public Property 1984 and Under Section 427, 143, 147, 149, 188, 290 of IPC Contravenes any orders and any of the conditions of a license, Mischief causing damage to public property, Mischief causing damage to the amount of fifty rupees, Unlawful Assembly, Guilty of rioting, Unlawful Assembly, Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant, Public nuisance.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
			44th ACMM Bengaluru. Crime No.135/2018 Accused No : 01 & Status of case as Pending FIR No : 135 / 2018 Jayaprakash Nagar Police Station, Bengaluru	Under Section 127A of Representation of People Act 1951 and 1988 and Under Section 3 of Karnataka Open Place disfigurement Act 1951 and 1981 Election pamphlet or poster which does not bear on its face the names and addresses of the printer and the publisher thereof, Unauthorised disfigurement by advertisement.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
			37th ACMM Court Bengaluru. Crime No.0070/2023 – Thilaknagar, Police Station, Bengaluru, Accused No: 2 & Status of case as Pending	Under Section 341, 504, 506, 34 of IPC Wrongful restraint, Intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace, Criminal intimidation, Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
8	SHREYAS M. PATEL	16-HASSAN PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY, KARNATAKA	Civil Court, Junior Division, Puttur Subramanya Police Station Forest Crime Case No. FC No.2/2014-15– Assistant Conservator of Forest, Subramanya, Dakshina Kannada District Status of the Case: Charges not framed	U/s 24(D) (E) and 104(A) of Karnataka Forest Act Allegation of Illegal transportation of Beete Tree log through vehicle from unknown person and falsely implicated.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

* General Election to the House of People – 2024 (Loksabha), First Phase.

Note: (i) The above information shall be published state wise for each State/UT.
(ii) The matter in newspapers should be published in font size of at least 12.

KARNATAKA PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTEE * No. 14, Queens Road, Bangalore - 560 052.

(D.K. SHIVAKUMAR)
President, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee, Bangalore

15.48L members Retirement fund body EPFO added on a net basis in February 2024

TESLA IS HOLDING TALKS WITH MULTIPLE STATE GOVERNMENTS FOR LOCATION OF ITS FACTORY

MUSK POSTPONES INDIA VISIT PLAN THIS WEEKEND

Unfortunately, very heavy Tesla obligations require that the visit to India be delayed, but I do very much look forward to visiting later this year

Elon Musk, chief executive officer, Tesla

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

TESLA CEO Elon Musk postponed his much-anticipated visit to India where he was expected to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and announce Tesla's possible entry into the Indian market with a multi-billion manufacturing facility. Musk was supposed to arrive in India on Sunday.

"Unfortunately, very heavy Tesla obligations require that the visit to India be delayed, but I do very much look forward to visiting later this year," Musk said in a post on X on Saturday. According to reports, Musk has to be present at an important analyst call on April 23 in the United States to answer questions related to Tesla's first quarter (Jan-March) performance where the carmaker registered a steep decline in sales.

Last week, Musk posted on X that he was looking forward to visiting India and meeting PM Modi. It was expected that post the meeting, Musk would announce an investment of $2-3 billion to build a factory in India given that the central government lowered import duty on electric vehicles (EVs), a long-awaited demand of Tesla. Besides this, Musk was also expected to announce plans to introduce Starlink and meet start-up founders.

Musk's decision to postpone his visit is seen as a setback for PM Modi who is aggressively campaigning to come back in power for the third consecutive term. A meeting with Musk and Tesla's formal investment announcement would have boosted his investment-friendly image in the middle of 2024 general elections.

"I want investment to come in India. It doesn't matter who has invested money but the sweat put into the work must be of our own people. The product should have the essence of our soil, so that our youth in the country will get employment opportunities," Modi had said in an interview when asked about Tesla and Starlink's possible entry into India. Modi has met Musk twice, once in 2015 and once in 2023.

While Musk has postponed his visit, a source told TNIE that Tesla officials will continue to hold talks with India regarding its entry here. At present, Tesla is holding talks with multiple state governments for the location of its factory.

> I want investment to come in India. It doesn't matter who has invested money but the sweat put into the work must be of our own people. The product should have the essence of our soil, so that our youth in the country will get employment opportunities
>
> Prime Minister Narendra Modi

The carmaker reportedly has begun production of right-hand drive cars in its Germany plant to test the Indian market after the government last month slashed import duty on EVs for manufacturers who are willing to invest here. India is now allowing the import of completely built-up (CBU) electric cars that have a minimum cost, insurance and freight (CIF) value of $35,000 at 15% import duty for a period of 5 years. At present, CBU vehicles priced at more than $40,000 attract a 100% duty while those below $40,000 are subject to 70% tax.

This benefit is applicable for applicants/companies who are committing a minimum investment of Rs 4,150 crore or $500 million, to manufacture in India.

The changes in import duty came as India is pushing hard to increase the adoption of EVs to cut import of crude oil and meet its carbon reduction target. At present, shares of electric cars in India are about 2% of total passenger vehicle sales as higher prices and lack of charging infrastructure remain a big concern among potential buyers. Analysts believe the EV penetration to increase rapidly in the coming years.

Tesla is also keen on investing in India as EV demand is slowing in its main markets — the USA — and its other big market China has become highly competitive with BYD becoming more aggressive and tech giant Xiaomi launching its first EV. ket China has become highly competitive with BYD becoming more aggressive and tech giant Xiaomi launching its first EV.

Tesla officials to continue holding talks with India

While Elon Musk has postponed his visit, a source told this newspaper that Tesla officials will continue to hold talks with India regarding its entry here. At present, Tesla is holding talks with multiple state governments for the location of its factory

NEWSCOPE

DINKs BECOMING MAIN LINE CULTURE AS POPULATION GROWTH REVERSES

GURBIR SINGH

A young man this writer knows has been in and out of many relationships. He finally seemed to like this girl, and was maybe thinking of marriage and a family. But then misfortune struck again: the nice girl is adamant she doesn't want children, and he's not sure he can go with that.

This is not this young man's problem alone. We are discovering the DINKs – Double-Income-No-Kids – problem is a worldwide phenomenon; and it has serious economic and societal ramifications. By choice, the modern millennials and the Gen Z are avoiding parenthood, almost selfishly dedicating themselves to self-improvement. Growing larger families is being seen as a distraction, an unwanted responsibility.

At first, these DINKs were seen as kinky fringe elements. But they have now become a full blown cultural mainstream. Studies in the US show by 2022 childless households in the US had hit a high of 43 percent, up from 36 percent a decade earlier; and in the near future they will constitute 50 percent. It's a baby bust, big time; and it is not only in the US. Sociologists are saying as countries reach a certain degree of economic development, fertility rates begin dropping fast. Growth slows, and then it becomes difficult to maintain the population after the birth rate falls below 2.1 children per woman – the minimum required to renew the numbers that pass away.

'Hum-do, hamare-do' – the catchy Family Planning slogan of the 1970s and 80s – has probably not something the millennials have ever heard of. It was coined in the days of high poverty and deprivation, when the government struggled to slow the high fertility rate of 4-5 children per woman. It is from the days when 'emergency' and nasbandi were both bad words!

The world has moved on since. As global fertility rates fall, for the first time in modern history, the world's population is expected to stop growing by the end of this century, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of UN population data.

Between 2050 and 2100, 90 countries will show a shrinking population, most of them in Europe and Latin America. Africa is the only region projected to show strong population growth for the rest of this century. Between 2020 and 2100, the continent's population is expected to increase from 1.3 billion to 4.3 billion.

The stark case of South Korea's plummeting fertility rate is well documented. Politicians have been offering sops, and community leaders begging parents to produce more kids. Both have hit a wall. In 2023, the country's reproductive hit a new low, and there are fears that the country's population of 51 million may halve by 2100 if current trends continue. The fear of 'national extinction' has forced the government to spend $270 billion on child care programmes, while parents are given a sweetener of $1,510 on the birth of a child. These sops have not reversed the trends as the South Korean birth rate is expected to further fall to 0.68 children per woman this year from 0.72 in 2022.

SOURAV ROY

The country's workaholic culture, along with the high competitiveness to rise fast on the professional scale leaves women scrambling with little time to risk producing and bringing up babies. South Korea big gender bias in payouts has added to the problem of pushing women to give low priority to rearing children.

In India too, the DINKs culture among young couples is riding on the fast-declining fertility rate. Lancet has predicted some time ago that by 1950 total fertility rate will dip irreversibly to about 1.29 children per women. This will result in an ageing population wherein 1 in 5 Indians will be a senior citizen. It will lead to a shrinking workforce that could impact productivity.

To understand how far we have come, the total fertility rate (TFR) was 6.18 in 1950, which reduced to 4.60 in in 1980, and further to 1.91 in 2021. Some local factors completely changed the landscape. Infant mortality, that was high, has dipped because of improved child care. This has reduced the need to have many children, to ensure some survived. Second, many children – an investment for old age – has reversed; and the cost of raising children today has outstripped the possible returns in old age.

How are young couples who avoid parenthood coping with the new DINKs phenomenon? The huge adoption of pets in urban agglomerations is one indication. Dogs and cats are showered with parental love, albeit with lower responsibility. Others are using their new found 'freedom' for travel and adventure sports. It is changing the way people live. The US is seeing a migration of families with children to the suburbs of cities and smaller towns. On the other hand, the under-5 population of urbanized centers like New York and Los Angeles is shrinking fast. There is a pattern in India too where couples, who prefer to go without children or delay parenthood – typically DINKs in the IT, advertising or other high octane corporate jobs – stay in posh but small apartments in town and close to work; and spend the time they have after long working hours on socializing or expensive holidays.

There have been many baby booms and busts in the past. But in this round, the cultural pattern is clearly favouring shrinking families, and bearing children as a last resort.

HDFC Bank Q4 net profit at ₹17,622 cr, declares ₹19.5/share dividend

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @Mumbai

COUNTRY'S Second-largest lender HDFC Bank Saturday reported a muted 2.11% growth in consolidated net income to ₹17,622.38 crore for the March quarter as against ₹17,257.87 crore in the preceding December quarter.

On a standalone basis, the largest private sector lender reported a net profit of ₹16,511.85 crore compared to ₹16,372.54 crore in the December quarter. The numbers are not comparable on an annualised based as in July 2023, the bank had merged with its home loan-focused parent HDFC into itself. The core net interest income, which the interest earned on its loans, grew to ₹29,080 crore for the reporting quarter, while other income grew to ₹18,170 crore, the bank said in a statement.

The city headquartered bank booked the core net interest margin, which is the income in percentage terms earned from loans after paying interest for its funds at 3.44% as against 3.60% in the previous quarter.

The gross NPAs or the bad loans ratio came in at an industry leading 1.24% up from 1.22 in the September period while the net bad loan ratio got printed in at an industry leading 0.33% which was flat sequentially. This had the provisions at ₹1,3512 crore expectation. The banks advances rose a tepid 1.6 percent to a tad over over ₹25 lakh crore while deposits jumped a full 7.5% to ₹23.8 lakh crore. Of the total loans retail advances led with a whopping 108.9 percent on an annualised basis. Gross advances increased 55.4%.

The bank is by far the second largest in the system after nationalised State Bank, with a loan book of a little over ₹25 lakh crore as of March 2024. The asset and balance sheet boost was announced on account of the merger with its parent which brought in around Rs 6.25 lakh croreof assets to its book. The bottoming was boosted by a one-time gain of ₹7,341.42 crore from sale of HDFC Credila, the education loan arm of its erstwhile parent HDFC to BPA EQT and ChrysCapital. The bank declared a final dividend of ₹19.5 per share for fiscal.

QUARTERLY EARNINGS: A SNAPSHOT OF KEY NUMBERS

	Q4FY24	Q4FY23
Net interest Income*	29,077	23,352
Net profit*	16,512	12,047
Net Interest margin	3.44%	4.1%
Gross NPA	1.24%	1.12%
Net NPA	0.33%	0.27%
CASA	38.18%	44.39%

Note: Standalone numbers *₹core

Business & Beyond

Eyantram Waste Management takes step

Eyantram Waste Management, a renowned e waste recycling entity, announced a groundbreaking partnership with the Andhra Pradesh government. This marks a major milestone in journey towards electronic waste management. Aashish Lohia, founder of Eyantram, said, "In line with our commitment to providing environmentally sound solutions for the collection, channelization, and disposal of electronic waste, Eyantram Waste Management is excited to unveil plans for the country's first integrated e-waste plant. Situated in MedTech Zone in Vishakhapatnam, this facility will revolutionize how electronic waste is handled and processed." The partnership with the state government underscores a shared vision for sustainability and innovation. The e-waste plant will not only address the need for responsible e-waste management but also play a pivotal role in India's circular movement.

New Zonal Office of BOB

Bhubaneswar: Bank of Baroda has formed a new Zonal Office at Bhubaneswar with effect from 1st April 2024 under Project "Vistar" of Bank of Baroda. Bank of Baroda, the second largest nationalized bank, with a wide network of branches across the country including state of Odisha has made significant contributions to the socio-economic upliftment of the state populace by extending banking facilities, especially in the agriculture and MSME Sectors. General Manager Smt. Swapna Bandopadhayay has taken over the charge as the 1stZonal Head of this Zone on 15.04.2024. Prior to this, she served as General Manager, Operations and Services at Head Office,Vadodara. Smt.Bandopadhayay commenced her career in 1996 and during her successful journey of over 28 years, she has held various positions within the bank in different Zones/ Regions/Verticals across different geographies viz. West Bengal, Delhi, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Canara Bank unveils new products and services

Bhubaneswar: Canara Bank Circle Office Bhubaneswar, a leading public sector Bank in Odisha, has unveiled a series of new products and services on 19th April 2024 at Bhubaneswar aimed at enhancing customer experience and streamlining banking operations. The event saw the launch of a healthcare focused loan product Canara Heal, to meet the shortfall of hospitalization expenditure while settling through TPA healthcare insurance claims of self and/or dependents. A customized savings account for women-Canara Angel with unique feature like Cancer Care policy, Pre-approved personal loan Canara ReadyCash and Online Loan against term deposit product Canara My Money. The launch ceremony was graced by the presence of Canara Bank's Executive Director, Bhavendra Kumar, along with Canara Bank state head Jagdish Chander.

Ultratech to acquire grinding unit from India Cement for ₹315 crore

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Board of directors of Ultratech Cement on Saturday approved the purchase of a grinding unit at Parli, Maharshtra from India Cement for a sum of ₹315 crore.

The Parli unit of India Cement has an installed capacity of 1.1 mtpa in addition to a captive railway siding.

Ultratech has entered into an asset purchase agreement with India Cement for the aforesaid transaction. The Aditya Birla Group company in a statement said that the purchase will help the Company to strengthen its presence in the rapidly growing Maharashtra markets. The acquisition is part of Ultratech's brownfield capacity expansion plan, whereby it targets to add 3 mtpa additional capacity by the financial year 2025-26. The proposed capacity addition is planned at Parli, Maharashtra (1.2 million tonne per annum) and 1.8 million tonne per annum at Dhule, Maharashtra. The company proposes to invest ₹504 crore to achieve the aforesaid capital addition.

The investment planned will be met through internal accruals. Ultratech is the country's largest cement manufacturer with 147.3 million tonne per annum capacity. The company plans to take its grey cement capacity to 178 mtpa by financial year 2026-27.

In the December quarter of the financial year 2023-24, Ultratech Cement entered Jharkhand with acquisition of 0.54 million tonne per annum (mtpa) grinding capacity from Burnpur Cement Limited. The company also plans to add 14.7 million tonne per annum Greenfield capacity in the financial year 2024-25.

Adani group, which acquired Ambuja Cement, ACC and Sanghi Industries over the past two years, is now the second-largest cement manufacturer in the country with 78.9 million tonne per annum capacity.

Duplantis lights up Xiamen with WR

Sweden's Armand 'Mondo' Duplantis opened his outdoor season in Olympic year in stunning fashion on Saturday as he bettered his own pole vault world record at the Xiamen Diamond League meeting. Duplantis, the reigning Olympic, two-time world and European champion, fired out a warning to any potential rivals at this summer's Paris Games by sailing over 6.24 metres at his first attempt at the Egret Stadium to improve his previous best.

From being dragged on Delhi road to Paris 2024, Vinesh on course

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

VINESH PHOGAT has seen it all in the past 15 months. From being one of the most decorated women wrestlers of the country to being dragged on the roads in the national capital. The two-time World Championships bronze medallist had even returned Khel Ratna and Arjuna awards in protest. On Saturday, she secured India's first quota at the Asian Olympic Games qualifying event in Bishkek in 50kg, a weight category she had to adjust after Antim Panghal secured the 53kg quota.

Vinesh was joined by Anshu Malik (57kg) and Reetika (76kg) later. With this India have four quota in women's while in men's no one has qualified as yet.

The focus, however, was on Vinesh. She had endured it all during the last 15 months or so. Given a direct entry for the Asian Games last year, she opted out due to knee injury and underwent a surgery soon thereafter. She gained weight (almost 10 kg) but didn't give up on her dream of representing India at the Olympics. She was leading the protest against former Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and continued with it even while attempting a comeback on the mat. In her bid to return to the national fold, she even competed in two weight categories (50kg, 53kg) winning the first and finishing third in the second during the selection trials held to pick the team for the Asian Olympic Games Qualifier.

A day before her bout in the qualifier in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, Vinesh was seen vomiting while training on Friday. After all, reducing almost 10 kg and maintaining it is not a joke. Hence when she took the mat on Saturday, all eyes were on her. And all of them were left awed as the two-time Olympian got the better of her opponents one-by-one to make it to the final of the 50kg and also securing a

quota for the country in the Paris Olympic Games.

Anshu's struggle

Dharamvir Malik, Anshu's father, has seen enough of adversities but the fake video controversy broke him down completely. A wrestler himself, Dharamvir decided to put a brave face, especially in front of his daughter, to make sure she comes out of the controversy as early as possible with the Paris Olympics hurrying near.

All those efforts put in by the father and Anshu paid rich dividends on Saturday as the latter earned an Olympic quota by storming into the 57kg final of the Asian Olympic Games Qualifier in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. "I was inconsolable once that video started circulating but had to restrain myself because if I had given up, Anshu would have lost her hope," Dharamvir, who accompanied his daughter to Bishkek, told this daily. Dharamvir stood by Anshu even as the cops arrested the culprit. But getting back to the mat was not easy as the mental scar was still there and Anshu was finding it difficult to come out of it. "It's not easy for a woman to come out of such a trauma and Anshu is no different. We as a family suffered a lot but I knew she is a fighter and if I stand by her, she will make it. It's all about believing in oneself. I am happy that she had left behind that trauma and grabbed an Olympic quota once again," the father added.

Anshu represented the country in the Tokyo Olympics as well but could not finish on the podium. The result on Saturday has given her yet another opportunity to live that dream of winning an Olympic medal. And Dharamvir is optimistic as he strongly believes her daughter deserves it more than anyone else. "The goal once again is an Olympic medal. Qualification is over now and the next target is medal in Paris. As has been the case for years, we will leave no stone unturned to secure that medal. It's been quite a few difficult months for all of us and now it's time to forget them and look for a new beginning filled with hopes and aspirations," signed off Dharamvir.

If Chris Gayle was the OG boundary basher in T20s, Klaasen has worked out a meticulous method to become one of the most destructive six-hitters of the modern game. **Swaroop Swaminathan** spoke to him to find out more...

KLAASEN'S APPETITE FOR SIXES

ILLUSTRATION: SOURAV ROY

HEINRICH KLAASEN NUMBERS IN ALL COMPETITIVE T20S*

Year	Mat	6s	Balls/6	4s/6
2021	20	9	26.4	3
2022	29	32	16.21	1.53
2023	34	61	9.85	1.11
2024	21	64	5.57	0.53

37 No of 6s Klaasen hit in the SA20 this year

It's nice to learn from him. Obviously, they have got a different mentality to few of the other teams as well so tapping into those sort of things... seeing how is he captaining and making field changes. You pick up small things like that. —Klaasen, on playing under Pat Cummins

A DAY out from Sunrisers Hyderabad's game against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, something was amiss with Heinrich Klaasen. For somebody from the outside, the wicketkeeper was striking the ball cleanly. He was dominating most of the six-hitting metrics (a league-leading 17 sixes after three games and the ideal fours-to-six ratio). He had also influenced games with his ability (an unbeaten 34-ball 80 helped the franchise score a record-breaking 277).

But the 32-year-old wasn't feeling it. After a decent start to the campaign, two middling knocks (10 off 11 followed by a run-a-ball nine) had set him back. For somebody who's the closest thing to hitting on-demand sixes in the game's shortest format, going 20 balls across two matches without hitting one constituted a crisis. As soon as he touched down in Bengaluru, he got to work. "Even yesterday (on Saturday, two days before the Bengaluru encounter), I had to go back in the net and work again," he told this daily in an interview. "It was to fix the (bat) swing, to make sure I'm hitting the ball nicely. The last couple of games, it didn't feel so great. You always fight those little mental battles."

It worked. Under the Chinnaswamy lights on Monday, the peerless South African went medieval against a bowling attack that had already been ill-treated by Travis Head. Everything disappeared. If it was inside his zone, it sailed into the stands. One six, in particular, took the breath away. Klaasen picked up the length of a Lockie Ferguson slot ball early before sending it back with interest over the Kiwi pacer's head. It kept gaining distance before clearing the roof.

From time immemorial, the singular act of the six — from planning to execution — has been one of the most thrilling acts in the sport. Even within this context, Klaasen is elevating it. The solid base, the science behind his bat swing (30 degrees is the most optimum if you are wondering) and the mental aspect... it's fair to say that no player in T20's two-decade-old history has married all the concepts to create the perfect concoction.

Yet, for all his mastery in clearing the boundary, it's important to start at the beginning.

Sunday Special

The 'beginning' here refers to a phase in Klaasen's career where he thought he wouldn't even be able to clear the in-field. "I never really thought about six hitting," he said. "I always could score boundaries and clear the rope. I am not the guy who hits massive sixes... I'm just the guy who can clear the boundary on different types of bowling. I always had the ability but never really believed that I would sit where I'm sitting here today (talking about my six-hitting capacities). I went through a phase where I believed that I couldn't hit over the inner ring. You go through those phases in your career. Over the last couple of years, something just clicked and that belief is there."

It's why the mental part is important. Here's an illustration. In 2021, Klaasen hit a six every 26.4 balls in the shortest format. In subsequent years, it's kept dropping. 16.21 in 2022, 9.85 in 2023 and 5.57 this year.

He doesn't shy away from the fact that the 'last two years have been good for me'. But he says the one thing that has worked for him during this time is not getting ahead of the situation or playing the innings 'the media wants you to play'. "Obviously, the more good performances you put in, the people speak more about you," he observed. "The consistency has been there for the last few years. It shows the work I have put in over the last couple of years has really paid off. It's about staying mentally strong and not worrying about what people say about me or the media hype before games or the match-ups. It's important to keep those things out of your head so you don't play the game ahead of the game. Or when you go out there and bat, you haven't already played the innings that the media wants you to play. So that's the biggest challenge, but it's nice and fun. I'm just happy that I'm putting in performances that help the team."

If that's the mental aspect, the technical aspect is all about the science behind understanding his own swing. "I have been working on my launch angle with Albie Morkel," he said. "It's something he introduced to me 2-3 years ago. We did drills to ensure that I could keep the ball out of the ground and not up; that's making a huge difference in my mis-hits as well. Even the mis-hits are travelling a bit further rather than just going straight up. That has definitely changed over the last few years."

He has also developed into an equal-opportunity six-hitter against both broad bowling types (pace and spin). Did that happen by accident (in the current edition, he has 13 sixes against pace and 13 against spin)? "I have been fortunate enough to face quality bowling among all types in South Africa," he said.

"I am keeping it quite simple in training and the drills are almost like pre-season drills. The bat-swing drills I have been doing over the last few years have really helped me trust and understand it."

On Saturday night, he contributed to a wild Hyderabad innings with two big sixes off Kuldeep Yadav. The first was trademark Klaasen as he launched it over the spinner's head to a ball pitched in the slot. A couple of balls later, deep midwicket had to fetch it from the stands. On a beauty of a batting strip, he knew he had to keep going. So, he chanced his arm off an Axar Patel delivery that came in off the angle but missed the line. But even during his eight-ball 15, one could see the effects of his destructive hitting. "He's been so good for such a long period of time that he has allowed us to either win the games or always be in the game," Daniel Vettori, Hyderabad coach, had said.

Stripped to its very essence, that's what Klaasen has given all the teams he's been part of over the last few years.

DOUBLE DASH

ANOTHER DOUBLE HEADER WEEKEND WITH THREE OF THE CONTESTING TEAMS TRYING TO STAY ALIVE IN THE SEASON. A LOOK...

Top vs bottom

Kolkata Knight Riders are second placed at this point in the table, while Royal Challenger Bengaluru are the last. For the Faf du Plessis-led side to stay alive they have to win all but one game from here on and it should start on Sunday. In what is an afternoon game at Eden Gardens, it is not going to be easy for RCB bowlers against KKR.

Can Kings get across line?

Three marginal results and Punjab Kings would have at the top of the table alongside Rajasthan Royals. Despite the horror form from the top-order, Shashank Singh and Ashutosh Sharma have tried to be the hero every time and succeeded once. In a game of small margins, they will need a lot more from the other batters to end the day on the winning side.

At this stage in my life, it would be the greatest feeling for me to represent India. I'm very, very keen to do so. There is nothing bigger in my life other than representing India in this T20 World Cup.

—Dinesh Karthik, RCB and India keeper-batter

Kolkata Knight Riders **vs** Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Eden Gardens, 3.30 PM
Punjab Kings **vs** Gujarat Titans, Mullanpur, 7.30 PM
Live on Star Sports and JioCinema, 7.30PM

Sunrisers mayhem with bat continues

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

A RECORD-BREAKING opening partnership took Sunrisers Hyderabad to yet another 250-plus score, this time 266/7 against Delhi Capitals. In reply, the home team fell short by 67 runs.

Rishabh Pant won the toss and invited Sunrisers to bat first. Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma started where they left in the previous fixture. Head smashed a six and two fours followed by Sharma's boundary helped Hyderabad take 19 runs in the opening over. Lalit Yadav gave away 21 runs in his first over, while Anrich Nortje conceded 22 in his opening over. Even the introduction of Kuldeep Yadav did not stop the carnage as Sunriseres got to a record-breaking 125/0 in the powerplay.

Travis Head smashed 89 off 32 balls against Delhi on Saturday | AP

Yadav broke the partnership with the wicket of Sharma and Aiden Markram in the same over. Axar Patel slowed the flow of runs and also took the wicket of Heinrich Klaasen immediately after Yadav sent Head back for 89 off 32. Nortje and Patel further slowed down the run rate, but Nitish Kumar Reddy and Shahbaz Ahmed soon found a rhythm. Shahbaz remained unbeaten (59 off 29 balls) as SRH posted 266/7. Chasing a record total, DC were all out for 199 with Jake Fraser-McGurk top-scoring for them (65 off 18).

Brief scores: SRH 266/7 in 20 ovs (Head 89, Abhishek 46; Kuldeep 4/55) **bt** DC 199 in 19.1 ovs (Jake 65, Pant 44, Porel 42; Natarajan 4/19).

China caught in doping controversy

AGENCIES @Sydney

AN Australian newspaper says 23 Chinese swimmers were cleared to compete at the Tokyo Olympics despite testing positive to doping because world governing bodies agreed with Chinese authorities and ruled that the tests had been contaminated.

The *Daily Telegraph* in Sydney said Saturday that the swimmers tested positive for trimetazidine, a heart medication, at a training camp held months before the 2020 Tokyo Games, which were delayed until 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Chinese anti-doping authorities found the results of the tests were Adverse Analytical Findings (AAF) but cleared the swimmers without any penalties after finding that the samples were flagged as positive as a result of contamination.

The 30-member Chinese swim won six medals in Tokyo, including three golds.

Action from the match between Chennaiyin FC & FC Goa on Saturday | ISL

FC Goa set up semifinal date with Mumbai City

ENS/AGENCIES @Fatorda

THE ISL season is over for Chennaiyin FC after they suffered 1-2 defeat against FC Goa in a playoff encounter at the Fatorda Stadium, here on Saturday.

Noah Sadaoui and Brandon Fernandes scored for FC Goa and they will now go on to face Mumbai City FC across two legs in the semifinals.

Goa have been one of the best attacking teams in the league and were third-highest scorers during the league phase. Their attacking nous was evident on the day as they took a two-goal lead against Chennaiyin. Whilst their first goal by Noah was a product of a proper team effort, the other one by Brandon was a sensational solo strike.

Serbian Lazar Cirkovic reduced the lead within four minutes but FC Goa managed to hold on to the slender lead in the second-half.

Manu-mental effort behind WR score

ENS @Chennai/New Delhi

MANU Bhaker has been synonymous with Indian shooting over the last six years or so. The 22-year-old has a penchant for big scores and seems to be unstoppable when she's in the zone.

Saturday was a case in point. Competing in the women's 25m pistol finals of the ongoing Olympic Shooting Trials (OST) at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting range in New Delhi, Manu was at her very best and put up a Goliath performance to post a score of 47 (maximum 50), a score which is well above the current world record. Jiin Yang of Korea is the world-record holder with 41 (scores aren't officially recorded at trials).

Having garnered 582 in the five-woman qualification round just 24 hours earlier, this is a step in the right direction ahead of coming challenges for Manu. She earned .60 points for her top effort. Rhythm Sangwan, the world-record holder in the event (qualifications), finished behind Manu. After a subdued show in the qualification stage, this finish could spur Rhythm ahead of the remaining trials. Esha Singh, the topper during the qualification stage, was the first one to get eliminated but she will remain on top because of Friday's returns. In the men's 25m rapid fire pistol, Anish Bhanwala climbed atop the podium with a score of 33. He finished ahead of fellow quota winner, Vijayveer Sindhu, who posted an effort of 27. Adarsh Singh was third with 23 hits.

Manu Bhaker

EXPRESS READ

After sprint win, Max claims pole in China

SHANGHAI: Triple world champion Max Verstappen took pole position on Saturday for the Chinese Grand Prix, 0.322 seconds ahead of Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez with Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso third. Verstappen clocked a fastest lap of 1 min 33.660sec to cap a perfect day after earlier winning the sprint race.

Honda's Kavin Quintal finishes 11th at ARRC

NEW DELHI: Kavin Quintal of Honda Racing India finished the first race of the second round on a creditable 11th during the FIM Asia Road Racing Championship (ARRC) in China on Saturday. Quintal earned five points for the Honda team while his teammate Mohsin ended up in 20th place.

Thrilling El Clasico on the cards in La Liga

MADRID: Placed at the top of the points table, Real Madrid (1st) and Barcelona FC (2nd) gear up for yet another high-intense el clasico clash in La Liga on Sunday night. With eight points more than Barcelona, Real have the home advantage at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium. **Real Madrid vs Barcelona FC, Monday 12.30 AM. Live on JioCinema**

Silva scores to help Man City beat Chelsea

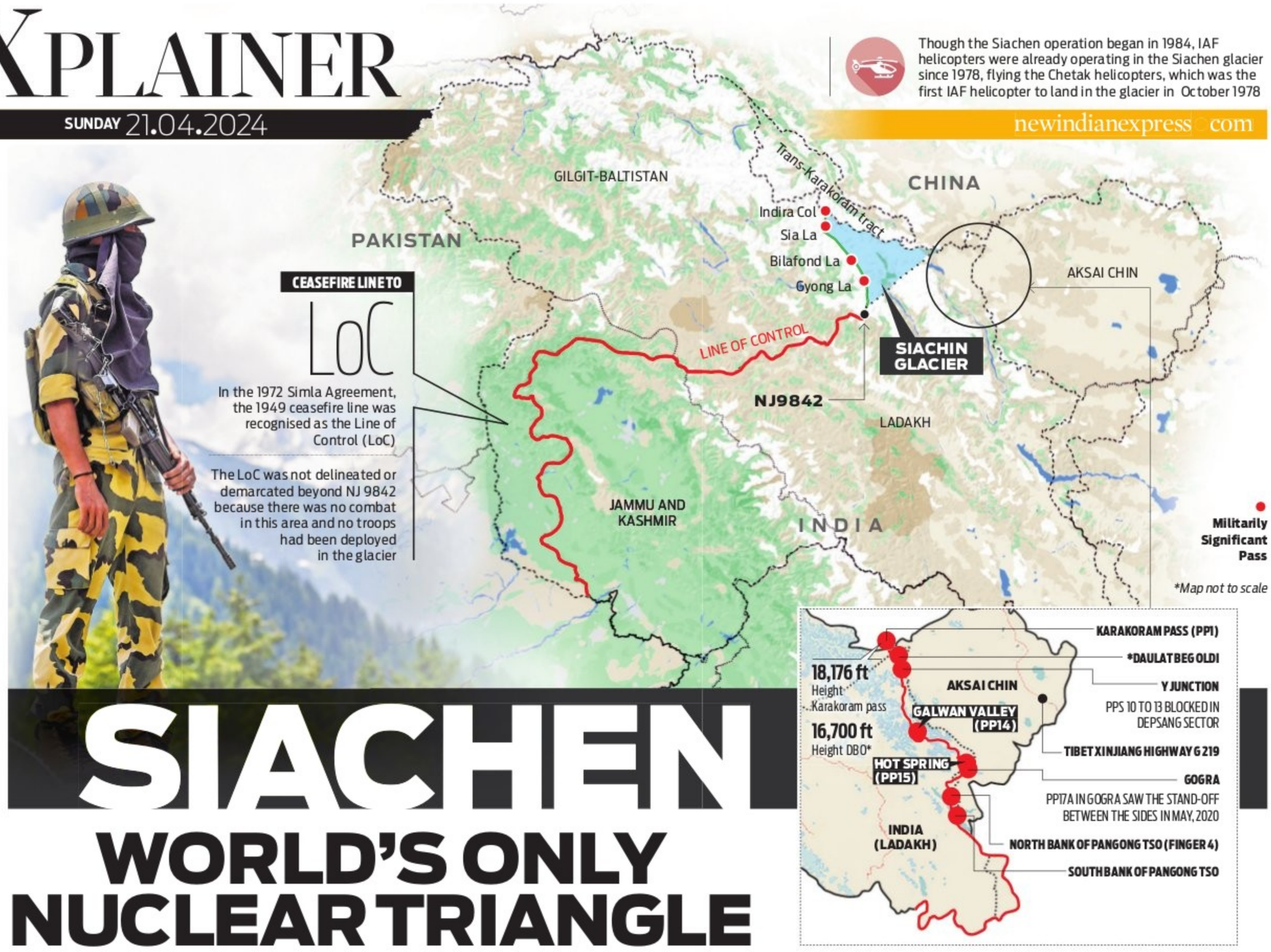
AGENCIES @London

BERNARDO Silva scored a late goal as holders Man City edged Chelsea at Wembley Stadium in London to reach the FA Cup finals on Saturday.

In what was an absorbing 98 minutes (including injury time) of football, City showed their desire to win with Silva finding the decisive goal in the 84th minute. Silva, courtesy off a deflection off Marc Cucurella, scored from close range.

Burnley post vital win

Burnley recorded a 4-1 victory over bottom-dwellers Sheffield United on Saturday to give themselves hope of surviving relegation in the Premier League. Jacob Bruun Larsen, Lorenz Assignon, Lyle Foster and Jóhann Berg Gudmundsson were on the scoresheet for Burnley, who are currently in relegation zone with 23 points after 34 games. They are three points behind 17th-placed Nottingham Forest.



SIACHEN
WORLD'S ONLY NUCLEAR TRIANGLE

MAYANK SINGH @New Delhi

APRIL 13 is an important milestone in global military history as India dramatically took decisive control over the Siachen glacier in the Himalayas on that day 40 years ago in 1984. It symbolises the gritty and determined deployment of the armed forces at the highest battlefield in the world - 20,000 ft above mean sea level - to protect the frontier despite heavy loss of human lives. Guns kept blazing every day from that day till 2003 when India and Pakistan agreed on a truce. Significantly, Siachen sits on the nuclear tri-junction of India, Pakistan and China. It's the world's only nuclear triangle.

Trouble began with the drawing up of a UN-brokered India-Pakistan ceasefire line in 1949 following the first war. The subsequent Karachi accord that year left the job of boundary delineation incomplete. The mutually accepted line was drawn only up to NJ 9842, which is the grid coordinates. From there, it said "thence north to the glaciers".

Drawing the line straight north didn't make sense as it would have cut through the glacier, frigid and icy rivers with changing contours and crevasses (deep crack in a very thick layer of ice) where deployment of forces and border patrol would anyway be difficult. The correct interpretation of the 'thence north' phrase was to follow the natural features, which meant extending the line right up to the Indira Col along the Saltoro Ridge towards the west. That's India's position (see map). But Pakistan sought to twist it to mean it went further towards the northeast and terminated at the Karakoram pass. That interpretation would have swallowed the Siachen, which is the source of freshwater for the Indus river and much more.

Pakistan tried all its dirty tricks to snatch the glacier, even fighting an unprovoked war in Kargil in 1999 to sever Indian access to the Siachen. The glacier has strategic significance because Pakistan's all-weather friend China is perched on the other side of Siachen, prepared as it is for the long haul. To illegally construct the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) in Gilgit-Baltistan, Beijing has deployed engineers of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and personnel of other construction companies there. Besides, China has moved in more than 60,000 heavily armed troops from Demchok up to Depsang in Eastern Ladakh along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India. The Chinese troop buildup is not very far from Siachen.

Place of roses

The word Siachen is an amalgamation of Sia and Chin, which in the local Balti language means place of roses. Wild rose shrubs can be seen at the snout of the glacier and in the lower valleys. Roses may symbolise peace and love, but bilateral frost is all you get at the glacier.

The Siachen glacier is 76 km long while its width varies between 2 km and 8 km as it juts into Gilgit-Baltistan. The glacier hangs at the snout towards OP Baba with Indira Col (named by the Workman expedition after goddess Laxmi, one of whose many names is Indira. The nomenclature has nothing to do with the then PM Indira Gandhi) at the northernmost point of the Saltoro Ridge.

With the changing international dynamics, the ground situation at the glacier acquired added significance because of its unique location. Growing military ties between China and Pakistan brought to India the very real challenge of a possible 'two-front war'.

Operation Ababeel/ Operation Meghdoot

Pakistan's claim line towards the east got a leg up after a US cartographic mischief when both were allies. Between 1964 and 1972, the US Defence Mapping Agency began depicting the truce line as extending from NJ 9842 to a point just west of the Karakoram Pass. Since the agency is an international reference point for cartography, it got ample traction and Pakistan used it for its eastward push.

In 1983, specific Indian intelligence inputs warned that Pakistan had begun planning an assault on the Saltoro Ridge to capture Siachen. Pakistan Army was preparing to push what it called the Burzil Force from Skardu under Operation Ababeel.

India countered it with Operation Meghdoot, suddenly dropping troops over most of the peaks and passes of the Saltoro barely 48 hours before the Pakistani operation got going. Indian soldiers occupied three critical passes in the Saltoro Ridge - Sia La, Bilafond La and Gyong La — blocking Pakistani attempts to enter the glacier. The Pakistani army was restricted to occupying the slopes and foothills on the west of the Soltoro. Indian positions are not visible from forward posts on the Pakistani side. Siachen lies to the east of the Saltoro and is lower than the ridge.

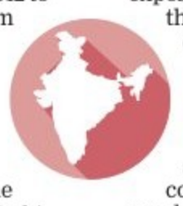
Monetary cost

As per recent estimates and official figures, around ₹6 crore is spent every day to keep a brigade — around 5,000 troops — in Siachen. It works out to around ₹22,000 crore annually. That is the price the nation pays for defending the nuclear tri-junction.

The cost to maintain troops and equipment at such an inhospitable terrain is definitely high. But the shift in the ground dynamics because of the presence of around 60,000 PLA forces in the Eastern Ladakh up to Y Junction in Ladakh — which is close to the important Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO) airfield — warrants such expenditure.

Harsh weather

Besides the military threats from China and Pakistan, the biggest challenge is from the elements. The temperature all through the year remains sub-zero and can even plummet to minus 60°C in the harsh winter. Besides, there is a constant fear of avalanches, crevasses and high speed wind. The rarefied atmosphere at the high altitude where the oxygen level is low, affects the soldiers both physically and psychologically. The effect of low temperature can lead to frost bites, chilblains (swollen skin, which appears several hours after exposure to cold), hypoxia (when oxygen is not available in sufficient amounts at the tissue level) and hypothermia (lengthy exposures to very cold temperatures use up the body's stored energy, leading to lower body temperature).



Why is Siachen important

There are various factors that make Siachen a critical element in India's strategic calculus. First, the glacier complex includes the Saltoro Ridge that overlooks the Gilgit-Baltistan area of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK). Second, the ridge with high peaks guards the routes leading to Leh, the capital of Ladakh. Third, towards the north, it overlooks and dominates the Shaksgam Valley, which was illegally ceded to China by Pakistan. Fourth, it is close to the Karakoram Pass through which the Karakoram Highway passes, connecting Gilgit-Baltistan to Xinjiang province in China. And, last but not the least, Siachen is a wedge between Pakistan and China, not letting the two have linkup deeper towards the north of Kargil and Leh.

Chinese factor

The Chinese offensive mobilisation in Eastern Ladakh triggered a race to perch troops on the highest points across the region. The Indian Army's experience in Siachen deployment helped them in reacting assertively and proactively to the Chinese provocation and expediting supply lines.

In the mid-1950s, China started its cartographic aggression on India - in Aksai Chin and the Pangong-Demchok sector of Ladakh. In 1963, Pakistan unilaterally ceded the Shaksgam Valley — that is visible from Indira Col — to China. Pakistan then started licensing western mountaineering expeditions to explore east of K2, including the Siachen. Sources say China has been basing its PLA personnel in the garb of road builders in POK and also influencing the administration there.

The China factor in the region was never discounted as the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is geographically close to the Siachen glacier. It got underlined as the Sub Sector North in Ladakh, the current flashpoint on the LAC.

The trek to the Siachen glacier (above) by a group of journalists in 2008; and their tents | MUKUNDA DE

The May 2020 skirmishes between the Indian Army and the PLA that led to massive deployment of troops and arms and equipment, shifted the ground realities. Among the stand-off points is Depsang, which is part of Sub Sector North. The terrain is such that large-scale armour operations are possible. China has multiple roads feeding this area while India has only the Darbuk–Shyok–Daulat Beg Oldi Road. At present, by sitting at the Y Junction, China can obstruct India's movement. The Y Junction is about 20 km from the strategic Daulet Beg Oldi airfield. Depsang is also a link towards Siachen and the Daulat Beg Oldi airfield.

The airfield is adjacent the Chip Chap River and lies 8 km south and 9 km west of the LAC with China. The air distance to the Karakoram Pass from Daulat Beg Oldi is just 10 km, which is why the airstrip is of immense strategic importance. The average altitude in this terrain ranges from 14,000 ft to 18,000 ft. In addition, there are valleys and plains, which allow fast movement of vehicles.

Karakoram complex

Work on the Karakoram Expressway continues so as to strengthen communication between China and Pakistan. It is a multi-modal rail and road corridor that would also comprise an oil and gas pipeline. This is yet another example of China using geography for its economic benefit.

China has settled its border problems with its all neighbours excluding India and Bhutan. Ever since the 1962 India-China war, Beijing has been trying to encircle India from the North. The "deeper than Indian Ocean and taller than the Himalayas" Pakistan-China friendship needs to be kept in mind while trying to understand this region, including the Siachen region.

The China-Pakistan proximity has always been transactional. On 2 March 1963, Chen Yi, China's foreign minister and his Pakistani counterpart Zulfikar Ali Bhutto signed at Peking an agreement which defined the "common boundary" between the two. Article 6 of the 1963 pact ceding the Shaksgam Valley to China said, "the two parties have agreed that after the settlement of the Kashmir dispute between Pakistan and India, the sovereign authority concerned will reopen negotiations with the Government of the People's Republic of China, on the boundary as described in Article Two of the present Agreement, so as to sign a formal Boundary Treaty to replace the present agreement." That agreement laid the foundation for the Karakoram highway, which was built jointly by Chinese and Pakistani engineers in the 1970s.

The Shaksgam Valley (trans-Karakoram tract) is part of the Hunza-Gilgit region of POK. It is on the border of China's Xinjiang province to the north, the Northern Areas of POK to the south and west, and the Siachen glacier to the east.

India objected to the 1963 accord, saying Pakistan does not have a common border with China. India instead has the right over POK that borders China, as the then Raja Hari Singh formally acceded J&K to the country in 1948.

Demilitarisation

Various formulas for demilitarising Siachen have been floated but the problem lies in the trust deficit. Unless the border is clearly demarcated and accepted by all sides with full safeguards, any withdrawal of troops would give the adversary the opportunity to occupy the peaks and passes from where it would be difficult to dislodge them at a later date.

Some peaceniks who sought to convert Siachen into a peace park but it could not fructify. The revival of the idea in the near future is bleak due to Pakistan's continued belligerence and the rise in the presence of Chinese troops in the region.

Though the Siachen operation began in 1984, IAF helicopters were already operating in the Siachen glacier since 1978, flying the Chetak helicopters, which was the first IAF helicopter to land in the glacier in October 1978

'ACTUAL GROUND POSITION LINE WAS DRAWN IN BLOOD'

SIACHEN for us jutting between the two nuclear powers is important. The 110 km long Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL), extending from NJ 9842 to Indira Col in the north, separating the current position of Indian and Pakistani troops in the Siachen region is the most authentic military line. While those other lines drawn were with ink by Radcliffe, Johnson, McMahon, the AGPL was drawn in blood where determined and selfless Indian Army soldiers, jointly with the Indian Air Force, braved everything to stand tall for this region.

The significance of Siachen was foreseen by our military commanders. Thus they were able to explain and convince the decision makers to go ahead with Operation Meghdoot.

It has strategic importance for our claim to Gilgit-Baltistan and to Northern Areas as it gives connectivity, both land and air, and a base to carry out national offensive.

The famous Karakoram Pass in the North is the International Border and had been an ancient trade route very well utilised towards connectivity in the North. It had been part of the old silk route; Prosperity came through this land connectivity during the olden days.

Today, keeping the deployment of the Indian Army soldiers towards the Himalayas where the average height is between 10,000 ft to 20,000 ft, it is the Siachen experience and training that has made us very confident. We are defending the most challenging places in the world in terms of terrain and climate. With the rotation of soldiers and the training at Siachen battle School prior to their deployment, we are churning out the best force for offensive and defensive operation in the most challenging high altitude areas. What adds to the difficulties is the wind chill factor in places like Depsang and those thereafter but our soldiers learn the most difficult task during their deployments here.

Brigadier Bhupesh Singh Hada (Retd)

(The author is former Siachen Brigade Commander)

PORTERS THE BEST FRIENDS ON OUR SIACHEN TREK

MAYANK SINGH

Loneliness is the only constant at the Siachen heights - 10,000 ft to 22,000 ft - where as a journalist I got to see the highest battlefield, up, close and personal in 2008. Other than the base camp and Kumar Post, most of the camps have a handful of tents and fewer people. It is only common sense and weather-defying courage of our soldiers that keeps our country safe from the adversaries.

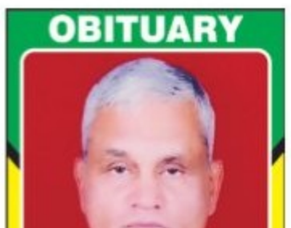
Given the harsh weather, the mandatory maximum duration of stay at Siachen is three months. It is a place where boiling hot soup goes stone cold by the time you finish it. All one can see is the blue sky and the bright white snow. The best canned Alfonso and cherry items in the daily menu seem tasteless here. The lesson I learnt was not to get adventurous, and stay as cool as possible. At this place, where one felt so close to the Almighty, I wanted to walk all over the terrain. But within the first hour, we were getting breathless. It took four days to get acclimatised at the base camp. It was then that we got the go ahead to trek to the actual glacier.

Those who walked with us were the porters and the link commanders, who could find their way around the terrain even blindfolded. As one walked, the toughness of the terrain unravelled itself. Feet felt lead-cast. We could hear the sound of gurgling water somewhere deep down below but couldn't see it. On the trek, our truest friends were the porters. Here, the safety rope is the margin between life and death, so one had to cling on to the rope all the time.

Answering nature's calls is an arduous exercise. Sitting on a wooden plank between two kerosene drums and defecating can be a balancing act. Grabbing a nearby metal pole to steady yourself could end up in a metal bite, since the frozen metal sticks to the skin.

C.M.A. GROUP OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, BENGALURU
A.K. COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
O.T.C. Road Cross (Near Town Hall), Cubbonpet, Bangalore-560 002.
NAAC Re-Accredited B++
(Affiliated to Bengaluru City University)
Applications are invited for Admissions for the ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25
COURSES OFFERED : B.Com., B.A., B.C.A., B.B.A & B.Sc.
LANGUAGES : Kannada, Urdu, Hindi & English
CONTACT: Principal Dr. M.S. Vidya Mobile : 9845122074 | Vice-Principal Dr. Syeda Tabassum S.G Mobile : 7204259416
Contact Immediately in Person

OBITUARY



LT COL VIJAY SINGH NEGI (Retd)
of
"The Corps of Engineers"
Passed away on 19 Apr 2024.
We deeply mourn his sad demise and pray to the Almighty to bestow peace on the departed soul and grant courage to the bereaved family.
Homage paid by : Engineer-in-Chief and all Ranks of the Corps of Engineers